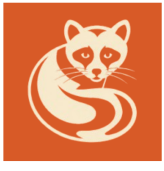
JAVA FREE PRESS

LETTERS FROM HOME

HANDWRITTEN MEMORIES
ACROSS TIME AND DISTANCE

WILLIAM DIRK MAYBERRY

MEMOIR



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Written by William Dirk Mayberry

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Introduction

In 1985, before the internet, mobile phones and most other modern technology we use today, there was always one technology around. This was the pen. It's an amazing little device and comes in literally thousands of types. I have always had a love of writing, a love of all things stationery and a love of pens. My favourite is the Parker pen and I have had my share of these over the years. In 1985 when I left Canberra at the age of 17, I had with me a pen. It was a Parker Jotter, which I had used at school, but now this little and very common pen was about to take on a new type of writing. I had just joined the Navy and not wanting to spend all my money calling home on the phone, I took to using my Parker, a writing pad, some envelopes, and a few stamps to pen out a letter home every two days. With mum, dad, siblings and two sets of grandparents, I was kept quite busy writing and I loved it. I also started to get letters needing replies from a few girls at my school. Funny how they never gave me the time of day at school but now I was a sailor they were sending me some lovely letters and were very interested in me. I blame the uniform. It had that effect. Anyway, with all these letters going out, mostly my relatives were writing back. It was great to get a letter from them as it filled me in on what was going on at home and in their lives. I was the first one of my siblings and cousins to leave home, so everyone was wanting to know how I was going. Anyway, this book is

about letters from home. From my mum, Nan and Pa Romviel and Nan and Pa Mayberry.

The idea for this book all started a few years ago when my mum and dad moved out of their house to downsize. While visiting them one day, mum was packing and came into the dining room with a coffee for me and an old Grace Brothers shopping bag. I was quite surprised when I looked in the bag as there, folded neatly and in their original envelopes, was every single letter I had written while in the navy along with all the letters from my mum, Nan and Pa Romviel and Nan and Pa Mayberry. I created this book and included in it all the letters they sent me. You may ask, what about the letters I sent them? Well, you can ask, but the silence will be deafening. This book is about letters from home, not letters to home. The letters they wrote me were welcome, whenever they arrived. They helped me get through my early navy days and no matter how homesick, wet, scared or challenged by events I was, I could reread them, and they gave me much comfort. Knowing that as I had started to serve my country, I knew that the people writing them to me, mostly family, loved me, wished me nothing but the best for me and ultimately were who I was going home to. The letters from home which I received and are on later pages of this book made my journey easier.

So to give some context here, I feel like I need to explain a little bit about those writing and mentioned the following letters. It should give them more meaning as you read them.

Mum and Dad – Mum, Kaye, was born in Canberra, Australia and has lived in Canberra her whole life as an only child. She went to school at Telopea Park High School. She worked in the Commonwealth Police for a few years until she met my dad, Bill and I came along. Dad, Bill was born in Castlemaine, Victoria, Australia and grew up there attending different schools around Victoria. His final School was Swinbourne Technical School. Dad has had many jobs and some of these at the same time. He was a hard worker, a great dad and good provider, always. My Sister Leonie

and Brother Robert were born in Canberra, and we all went to school at North Curtin Primary School and Deakin High School. This was a very short walk from where we lived our whole childhoods, in Jennings Street, Curtin.

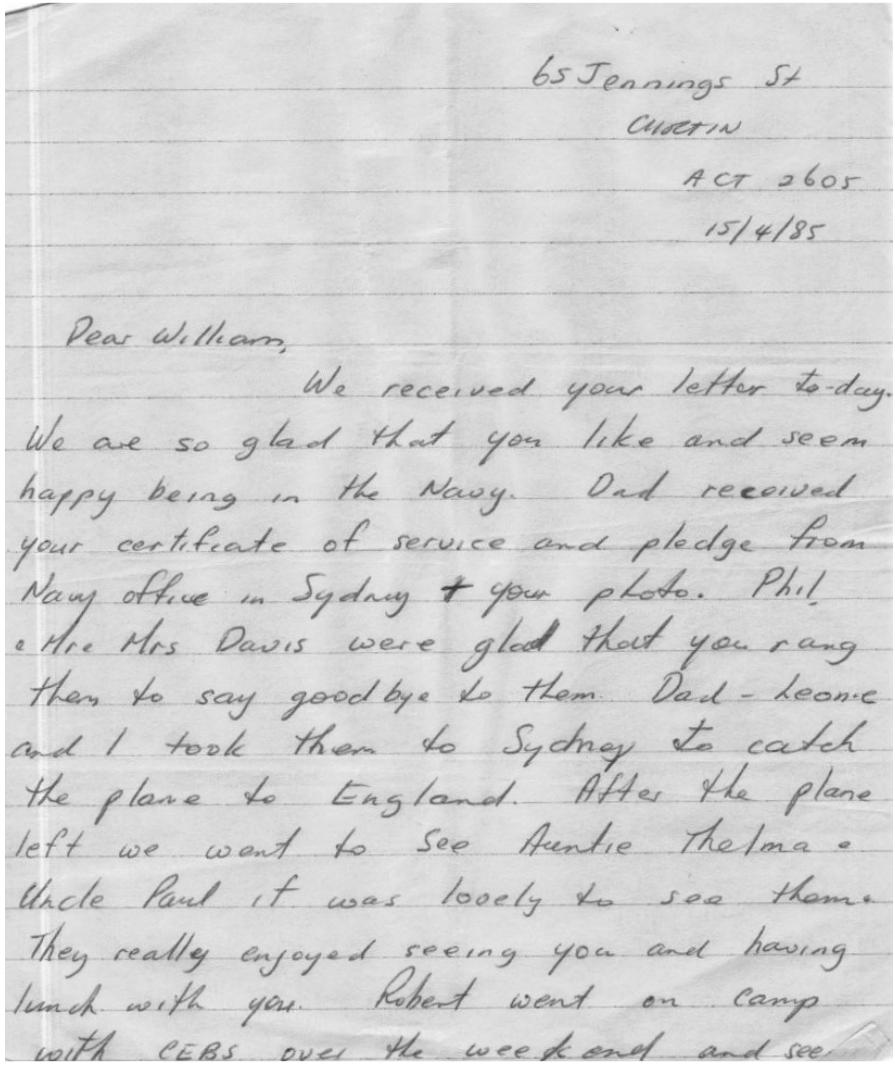
Nan and Pa Romviel, Mum's parents lived in Griffith near Manuka in Canberra. Nan, Marie was also born in Canberra and also went to Telopea Park High School and met my Pa Romviel, Dirk, one day through a hole in a fence. Pa was of Indonesian and Dutch heritage and was born in Cimahi, near Bandung, Indonesia. Coincidentally this is near where I live now in Karawang. He served in the Dutch East Indies Airforce during WW2 and arrived in Canberra, after fleeing the invading Japanese Army as they took over Indonesia.

Dad's parents were Bill and Linda Mayberry, they both went to school in or near Castlemaine and met when Pa was 18. They were soon married and after my dad was born, but some nine years later, my Auntie Joy was born. Nan and Pa Mayberry worked in Melbourne in their shops and Pa also spent time working for the Victorian Markets and Victorian Railway.

That's a quick rundown of my family and whose letters you are about to read. Letters from home.

A quick note on the letters. These letters from home are mostly in chronological order, sorted by date, but there are a few letters near the end where the writer did not include a date.

15-Apr-1985 – Letter from Mum



65 Jennings St
Curtin
ACT 2605
15/4/85

Dear William,

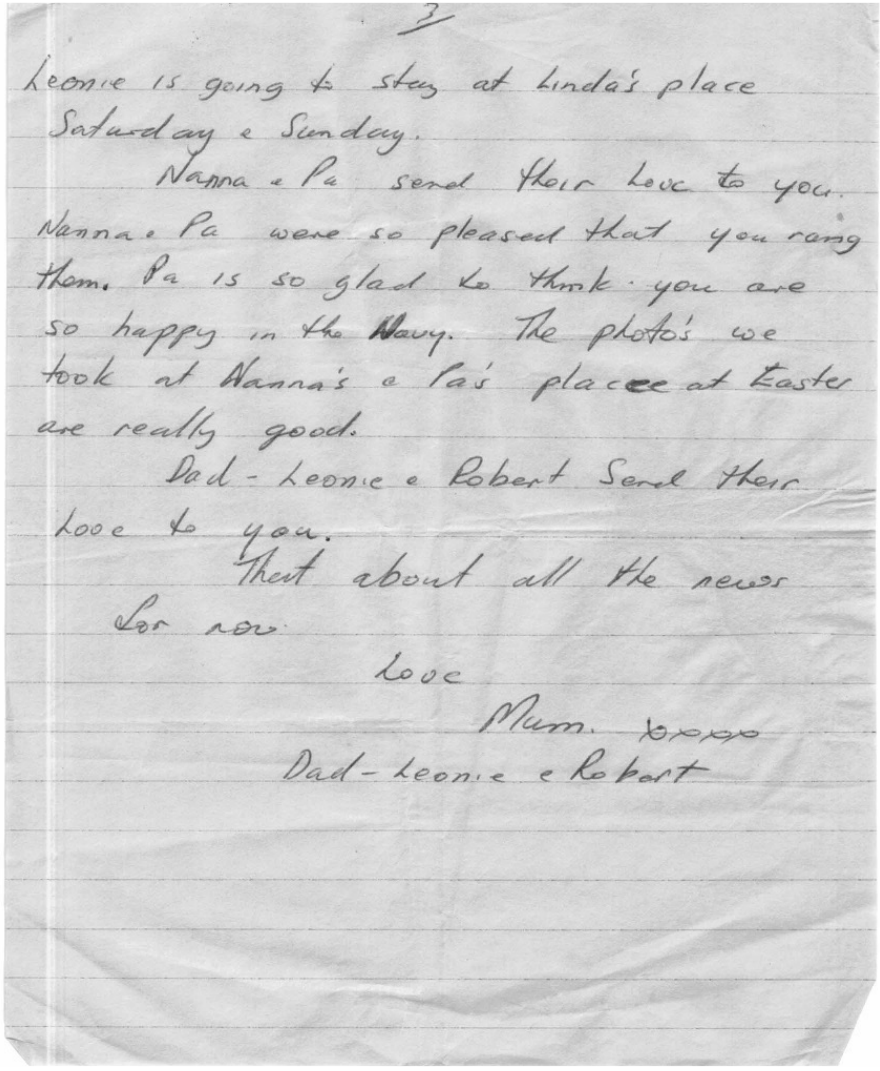
We received your letter to-day. We are so glad that you like and seem happy being in the Navy. Dad received your certificate of service and pledge from Navy office in Sydney + your photo. Phil & Mrs Mrs Davis were glad that you rang them to say goodbye to them. Dad - Leonie and I took them to Sydney to catch the plane to England. After the plane left we went to see Auntie Thelma & Uncle Paul it was lovely to see them. They really enjoyed seeing you and having lunch with you. Robert went on camp with CEBS over the weekend and see

2

to have a good time. Lt. Backhouse gave me your certificate from Nirimba for your cooking rate. Also the have an honour roll board at Cadets and they have put your name on it as going to the Navy (your rank - name - date of entry and name of depot.) Roger's & Petty's names also are on it.

Mac Mrs Harding send their regards. Jane-Maree is O.K. - we are getting about 5 eggs a day. After we left the railway after you went to Sydney - we all went back to Nanna's & Pa's place for breakfast. Then Phil came home to our place for the day. When I cooked bacon & eggs for lunch one of the eggs was a double yoker. Phil had never seen a double yoke egg before.

On Sunday we are going with Robert to the base ball presentation day -



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Leonie is going to stay at Linda's place Saturday & Sunday.

Nanna & Pa send their love to you. Nanna & Pa were so pleased that you rang them. Pa is so glad to think you are so happy in the Navy. The photo's we took at Nanna's & Pa's place at Easter are really good.

Dad - Leonie & Robert Send their love to you.

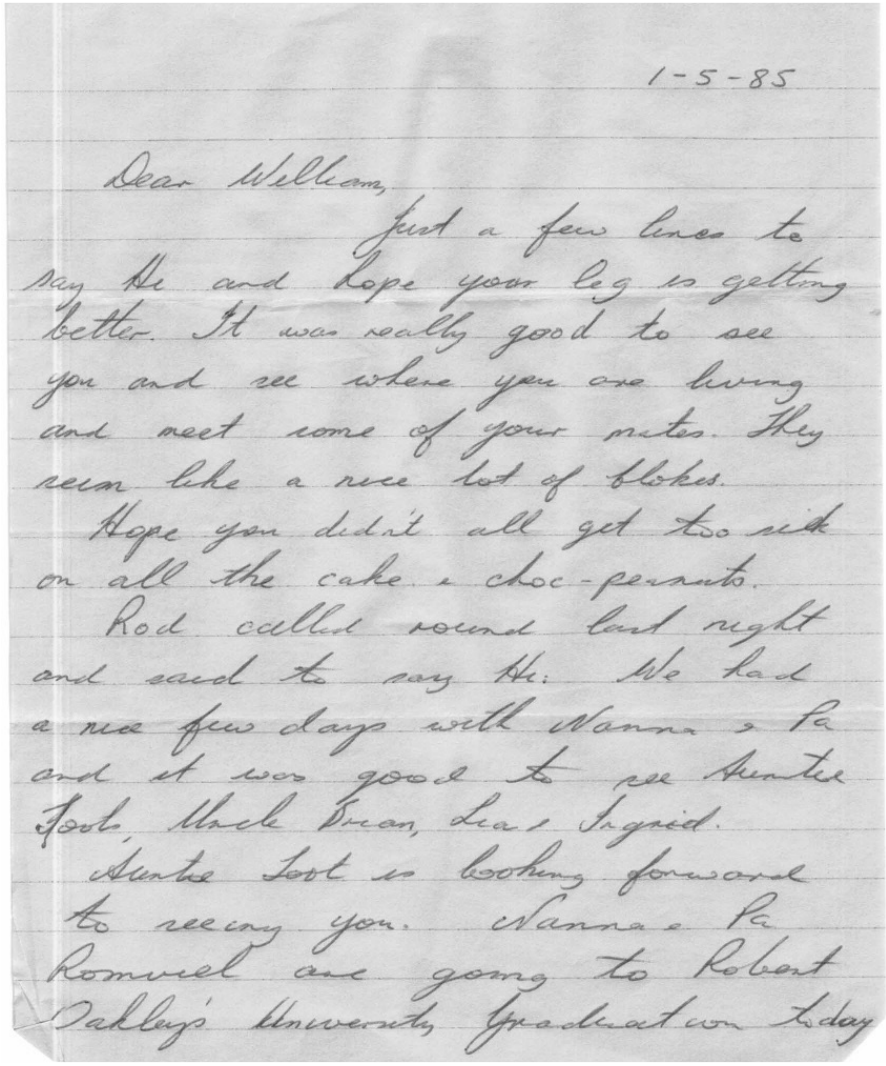
That about all the news for now.

Love

Mum. xxxxx

Dad - Leonie & Robert

01-May-1985 - Letter from Mum



1-5-85

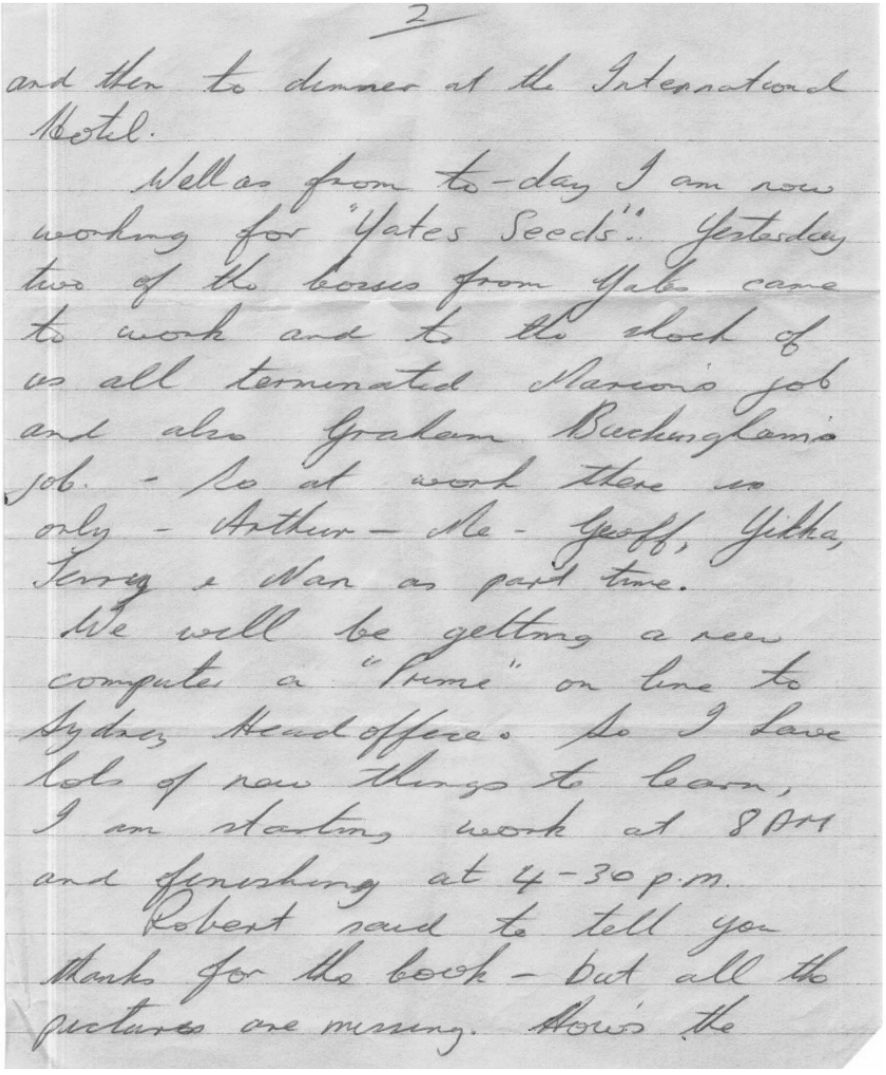
Dear William,

Just a few lines to say Hi and hope your leg is getting better. It was really good to see you and see where you are living and meet some of your mates. They seem like a nice lot of blokes.

Hope you didn't all get too sick on all the cake & choc-peanuts.

Rod called round last night and said to say Hi. We had a nice few days with Nanna & Pa and it was good to see Auntie Jool, Uncle Brian, Lisa & Ingrid.

Auntie Jool is looking forward to seeing you. Nanna & Pa Romuel are going to Robert Oakley's University Graduation today



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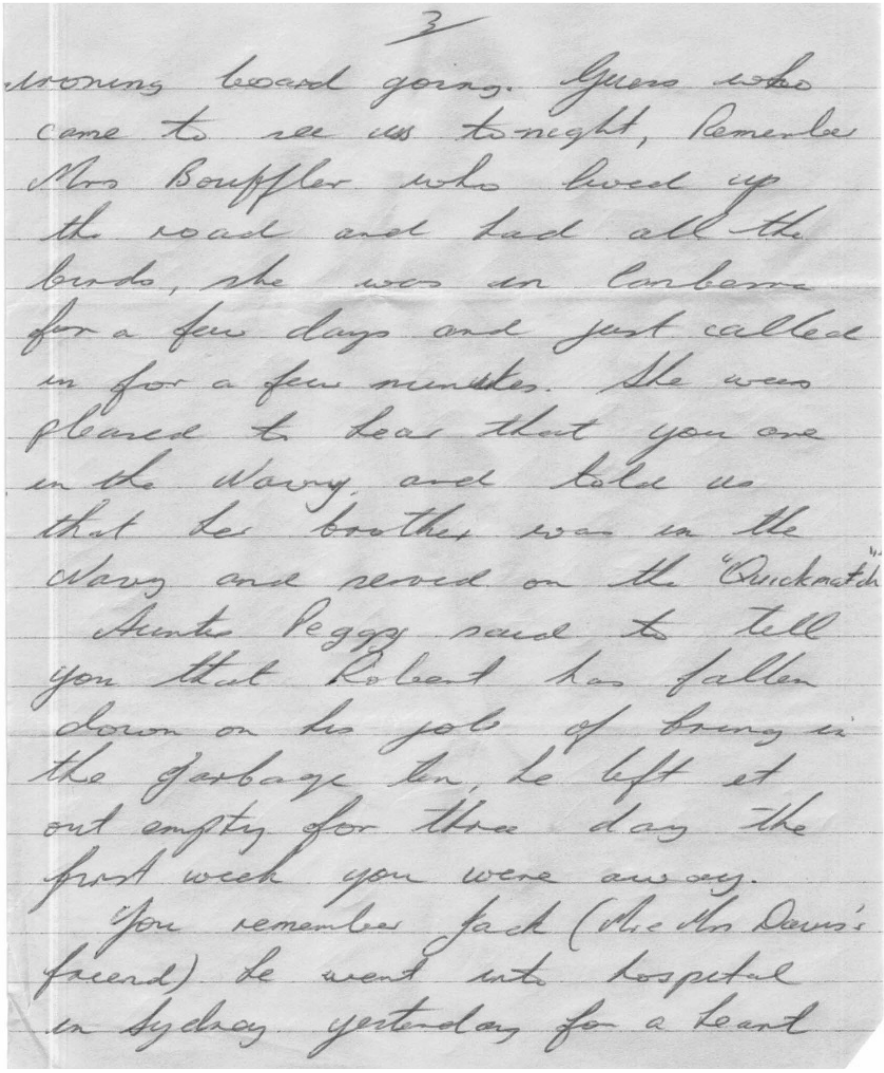
and then to dinner at the International Motel.

Well as from to-day I am now working for "Yates Seeds". Yesterday two of the bosses from Yates came to work and to the shock of us all terminated Marions job and also Graham Buckinghams job. - So at work there is only - Arthur - Me - Geoff, Yikka, Terry & Dan as part time.

We will be getting a new computer a "Prime" on line to Sydney Head office. So I have lots of new things to learn, I am starting work at 8 AM and finishing at 4-30 p.m.

Robert said to tell you thanks for the book - but all the pictures are missing. How's the



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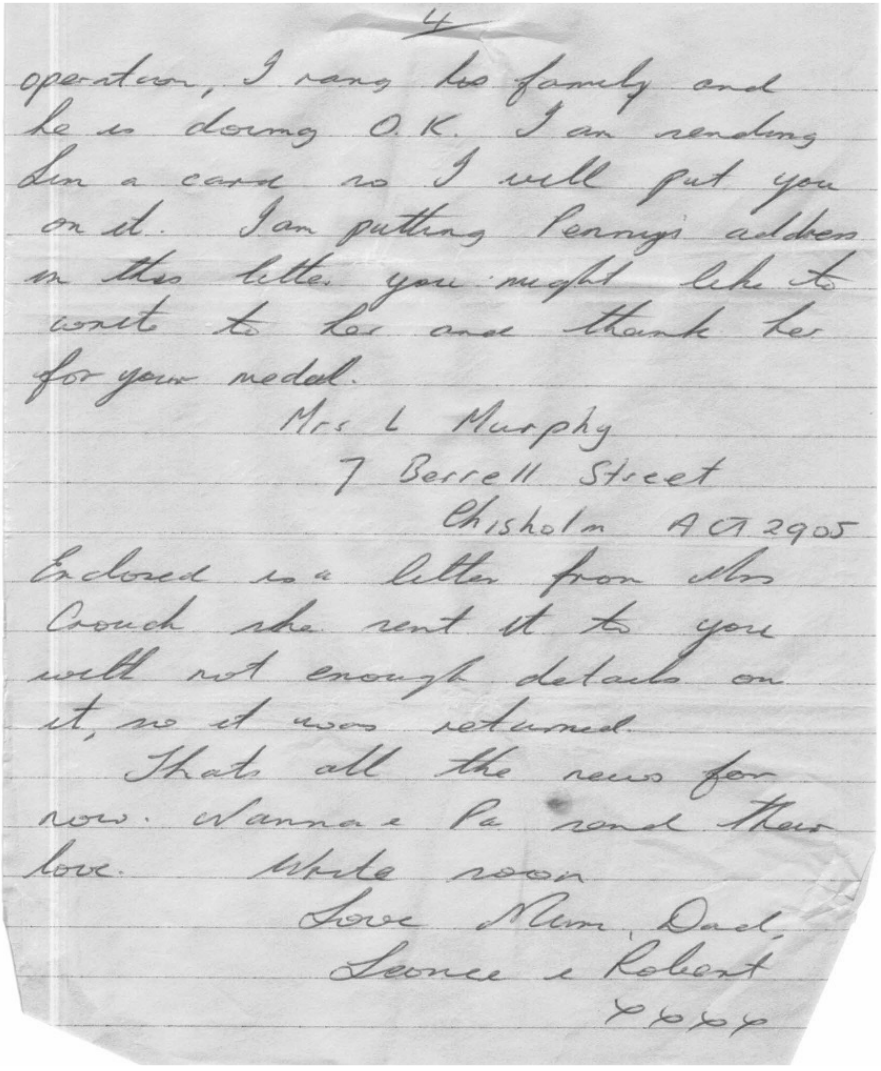
morning toward going. Guess who came to see us tonight, Remember Mrs Bouffler who lived up the road and had all the birds, she was on holiday for a few days and just called in for a few minutes. She was pleased to hear that you are in the Navy, and told us that her brother was in the Navy and served on the "Quickmatch"

Auntie Peggy said to tell you that Robert has fallen down on his job of bring in the garbage tin, he left it out empty for three day the first week you were away.

You remember Jack (the Mrs Davis's friend) he went into hospital in Sydney yesterday for a heart



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operation, I rang his family and he is doing O.K. I am sending him a card so I will put you on it. I am putting Penny's address in this letter you might like to write to her and thank her for your medal.

Mrs L Murphy
7 Berrell Street
Chisholm ACT 2905

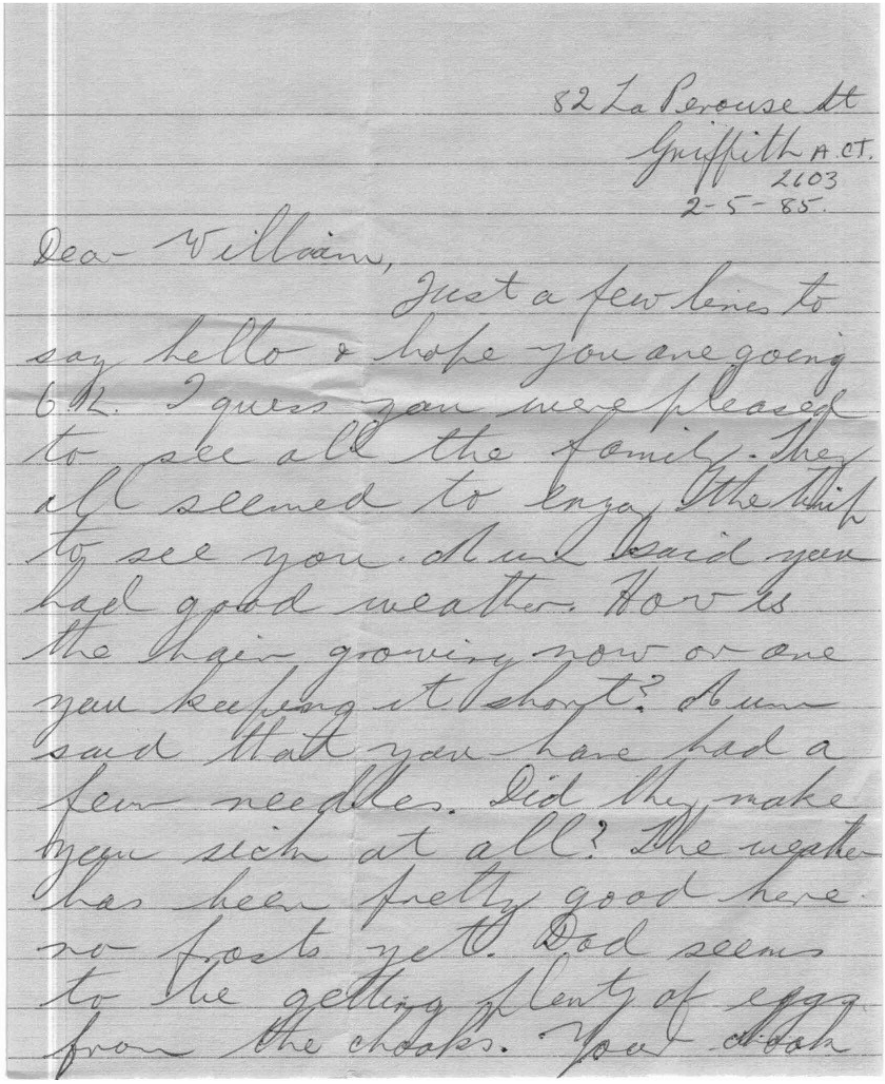
Enclosed is a letter from Mrs Crouch she sent it to you with not enough details on it, so it was returned.

That all the news for now. Wanna Pa send their love. Write soon

Love Mum, Dad, Leonie & Robert

XXXX

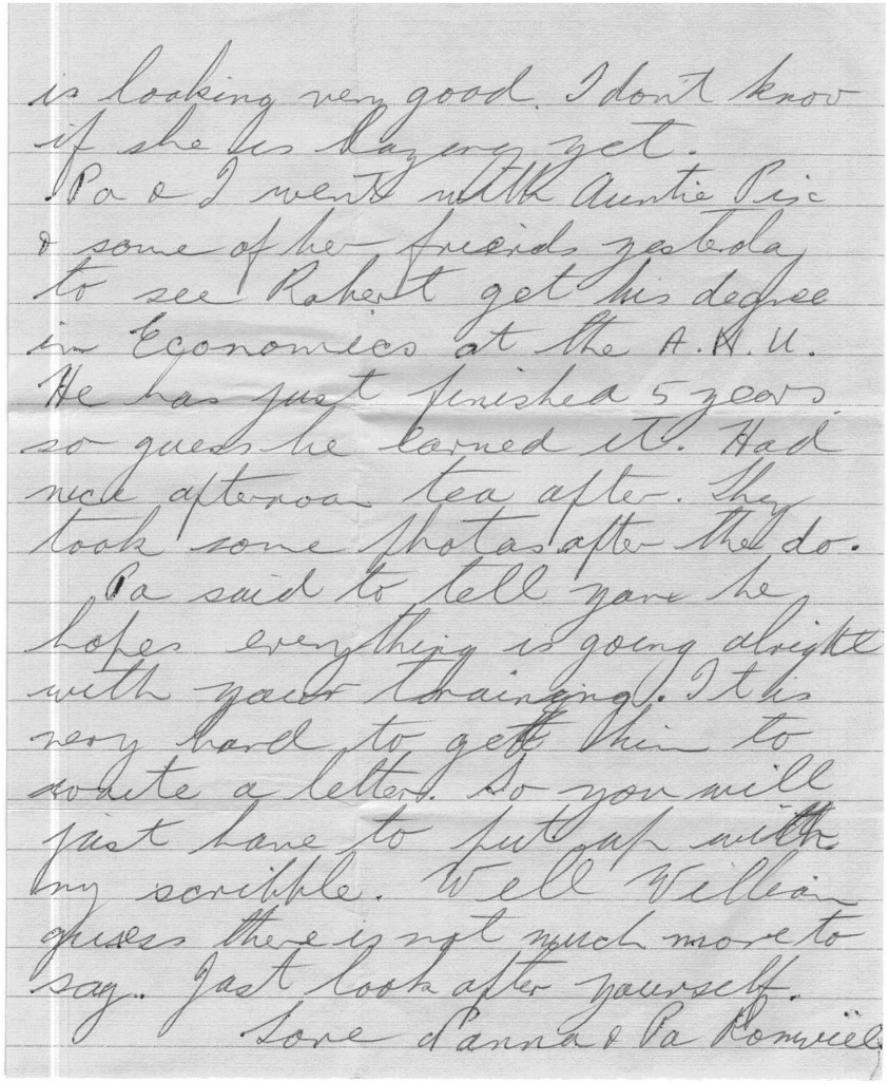
02-May-1985 - Letter from Nan Romviel



82 La Perouse St
Griffith A.C.T.
2603
2-5-85.

Dear William,

Just a few lines to say hello & hope you are going O.K. I guess you were pleased to see all the family. They all seemed to enjoy the trip to see you. And said you had good weather. How is the hair growing now or are you keeping it short? Anne said that you have had a few needles. Did they make you sick at all? The weather has been pretty good here. no frosts yet. Dad seems to be getting plenty of eggs from the chooks. You should



is looking very good. I don't know if she has Mazey yet.
Pa & I went with Auntie Pie & some of her friends yesterday to see Robert get his degree in Economics at the A.N.U. He has just finished 5 years so guess he earned it. Had nice afternoon tea after. They took some photos after they do.
Pa said to tell you he hopes everything is going alright with your training. It is very hard to get him to write a letter. So you will just have to put up with my scribble. Well William guess there isn't much more to say. Just look after yourself.
Love Anna & Pa Romuald

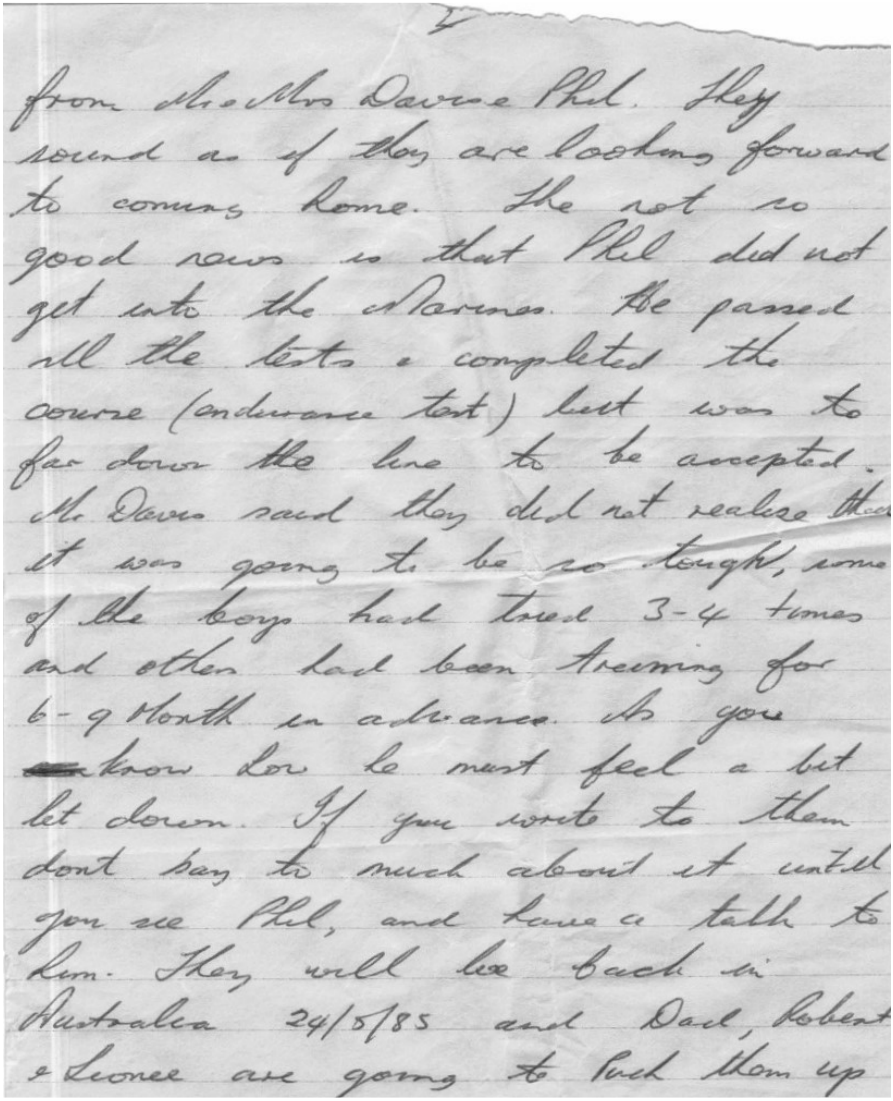
16-May-1985 - Letter from Mum

16-5-85

Dear William,

Hope the note finds you well. It was so nice to get your phone call on Mothers Day. Dad & I went to Nanna & Pa's place for lunch it was like when Dad & I were going out to get the four of us (like going back in time 20 years)

Leonee and Robert had a good time in Sydney and arrived home at 10.30 pm. Auntie Thelma & Uncle Paul rang and sent their regards to you. My new stove is really good so I should be able to bring you down a cake [redacted] when we come to see you in June. (Enclosed is a picture of the stove) We received a letter



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from Mr & Mrs Davies Phil. They sound as if they are looking forward to coming home. The not so good news is that Phil did not get into the Marines. He passed all the tests & completed the course (endurance test) but was to far down the line to be accepted. Mr Davis said they did not realise that it was going to be so tough, some of the boys had tried 3-4 times and other had been training for 6-9 Month in advance. As you know Lee he must feel a bit let down. If you write to them dont say to much about it until you see Phil, and have a talk to him. They will be back in Australia 24/5/85 and Dad, Robert & Leonee are going to pick them up

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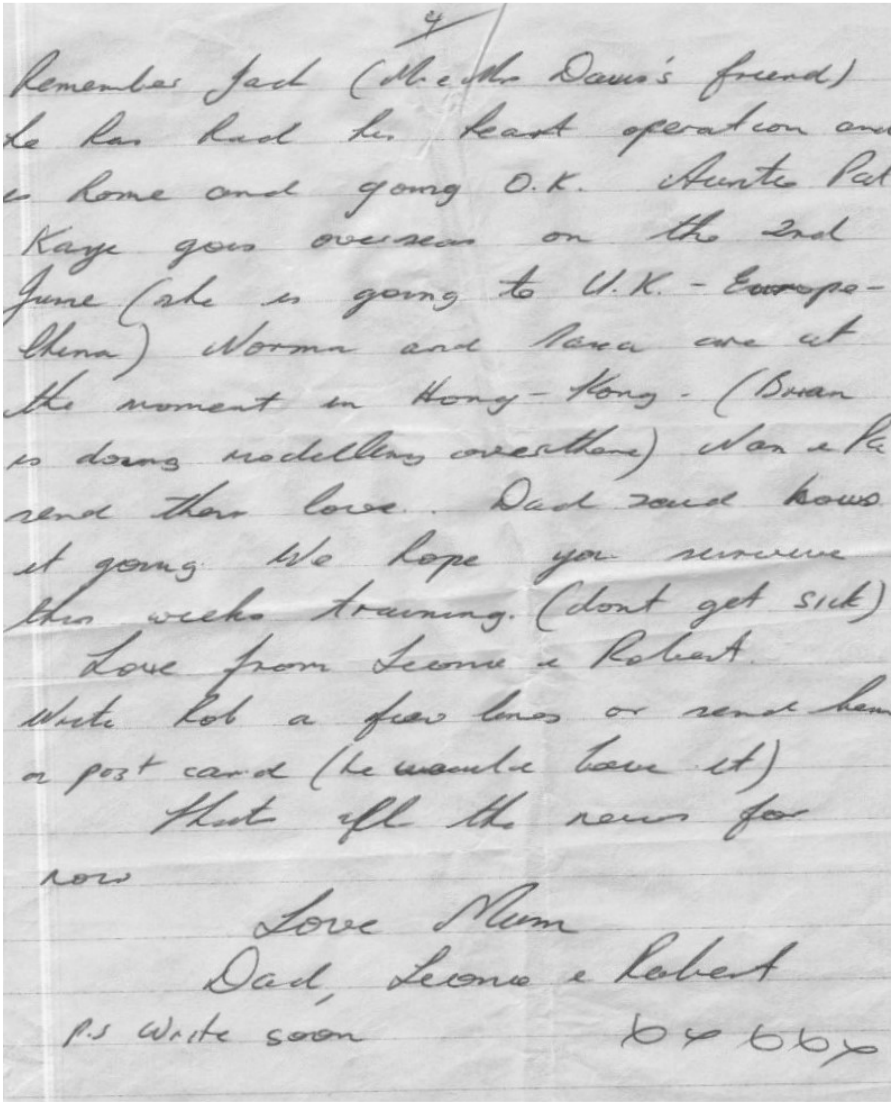
at Sydney Airport. Leone saw Cooke last week and said he has gone really strange and seems as though he may be on drugs. Linda sends her regards to you.

Mr McDermott is now the O.C at T.S Canberra.

Wellan do you think you could ring any Auntie Joy & Uncle Keith Grange to say Hi, they know you are in Melbourne her telephone number is 253101.

When we come down for your passing out parade Norma & Pa (Ronald will be coming with us. - Dad

Leone - Robert, me and you (if you have leave) will be staying with Norma & Dora, Alan & Pa are staying somewhere else. We called into see Auntie Glad the other day she sends her love.



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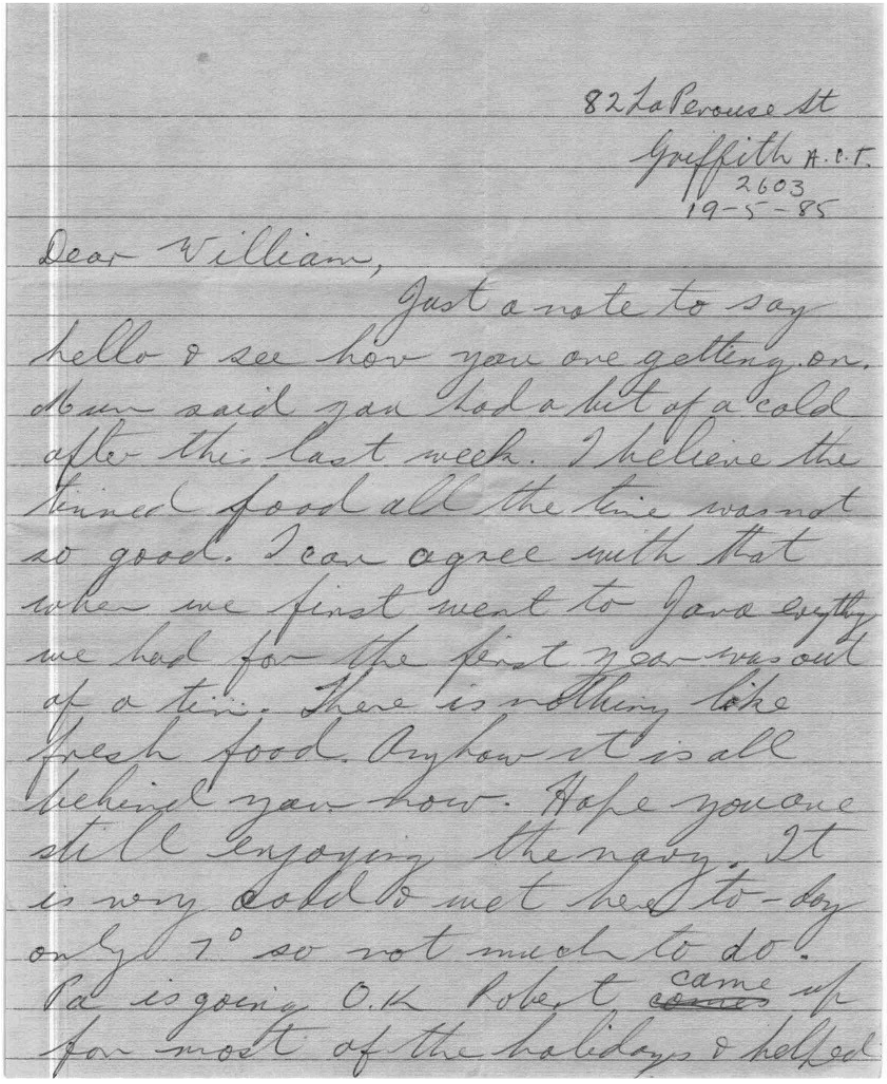
Remember Jack (Mrs Davis's friend)
he has had his heart operation and
is home and going O.K. Auntie Pat
Kaye goes overseas on the 2nd
June (she is going to U.K. - Europe -
China) Norma and Nana are at
the moment in Hong-Kong. (Brian
is doing modelling over there) Nan & Pa
send their love. Dad could know
it going We hope you survive
this weeks training. (dont get sick)
Love from Leone & Robert
Write Rob a few lines or send him
a post card (he wants to have it)
That's all the news for
now
Love Mum
Dad, Leone & Robert
P.S Write soon

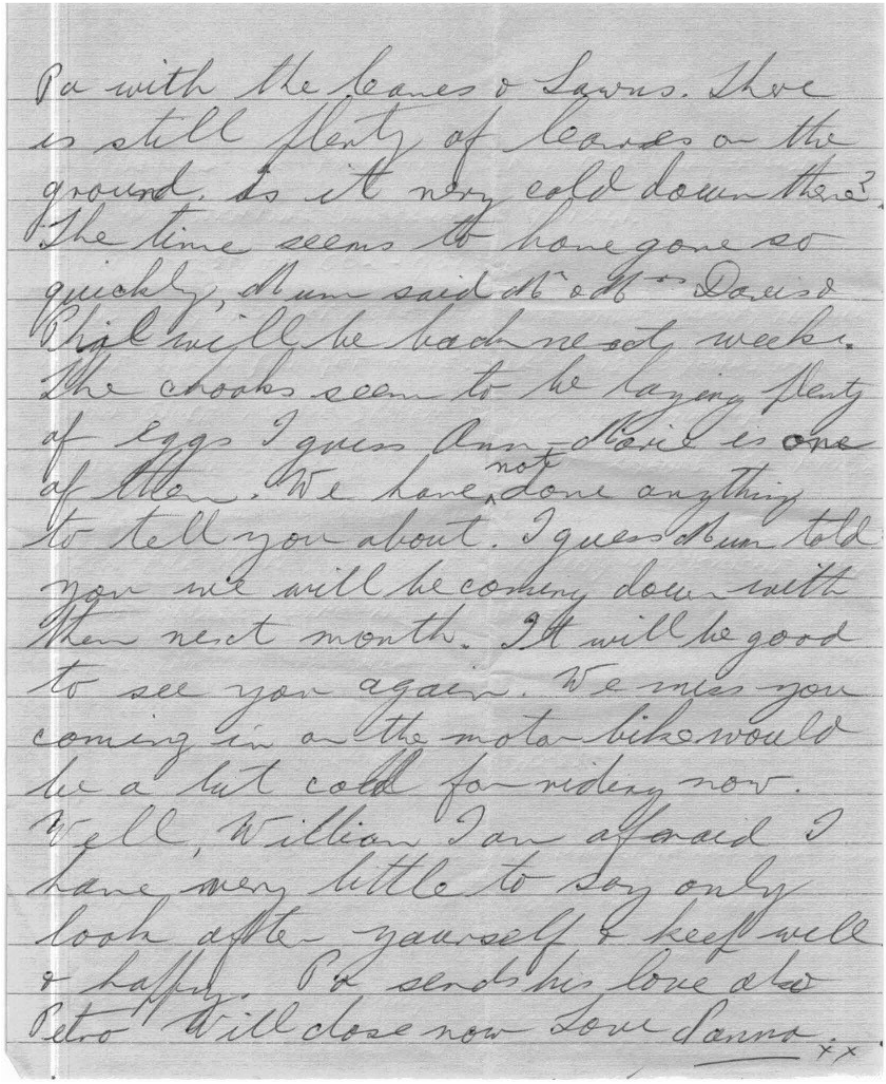
19-May-1985 - Letter from Nan Romviel



82 La Perouse St
Griffith A.C.T.
2603
19-5-85

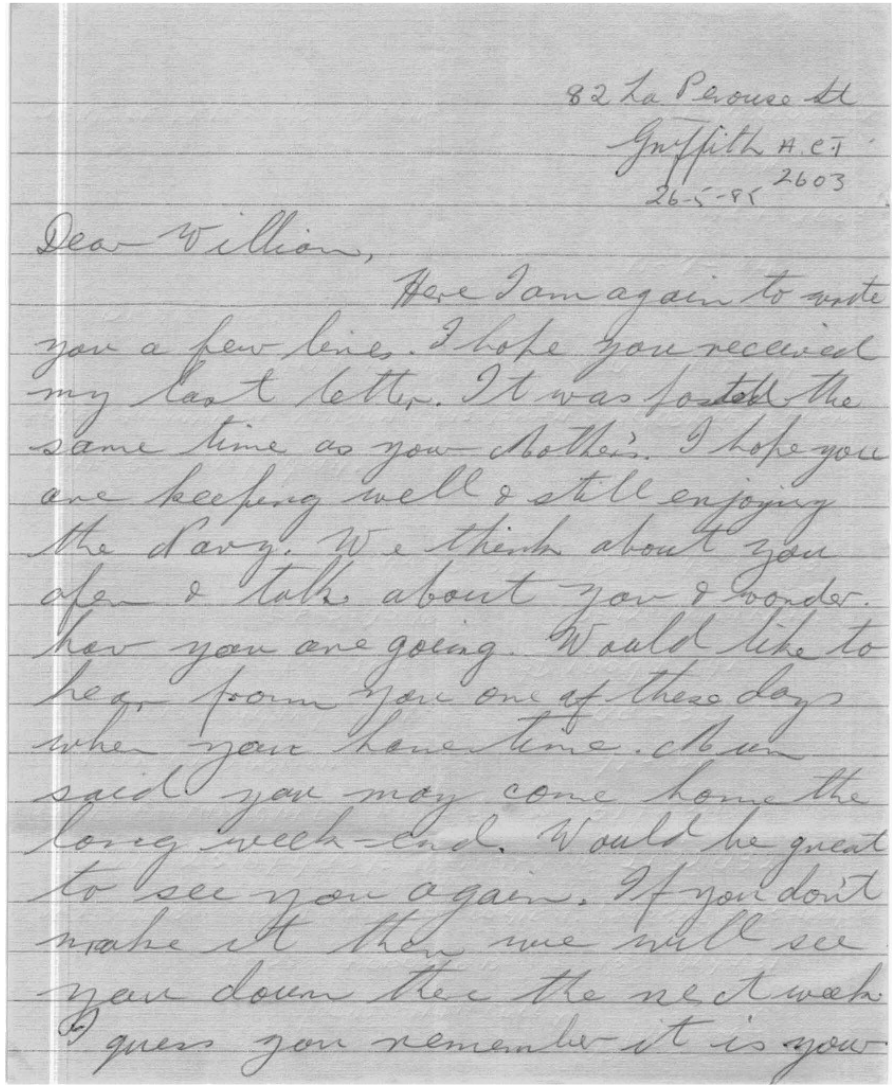
Dear William,

Just a note to say hello & see how you are getting on. Ann said you had a bit of a cold after the last week. I believe the tinned food all the time wasn't so good. I can agree with that when we first went to Java everything we had for the first year was out of a tin. There is nothing like fresh food. Anyhow it is all behind you now. Hope you are still enjoying the navy. It is very cold to-day only 1° so not much to do. Pa is going O.K. Robert came up for most of the holidays & helped



Pa with the leaves & lawns. There is still plenty of leaves on the ground. Is it very cold down there? The time seems to have gone so quickly, Mum said didn't you David Phil will be back next week. The chooks seem to be laying plenty of eggs I guess Ann-Marie is one of them. We have not done anything to tell you about. I guess Mum told you we will be coming down with them next month. It will be good to see you again. We miss you coming in on the moto-bike would be a bit cold for riding now. Well, William I am afraid I have very little to say only look after yourself & keep well & happy. Pa sends his love also Peter will close now Love Sanna. xx

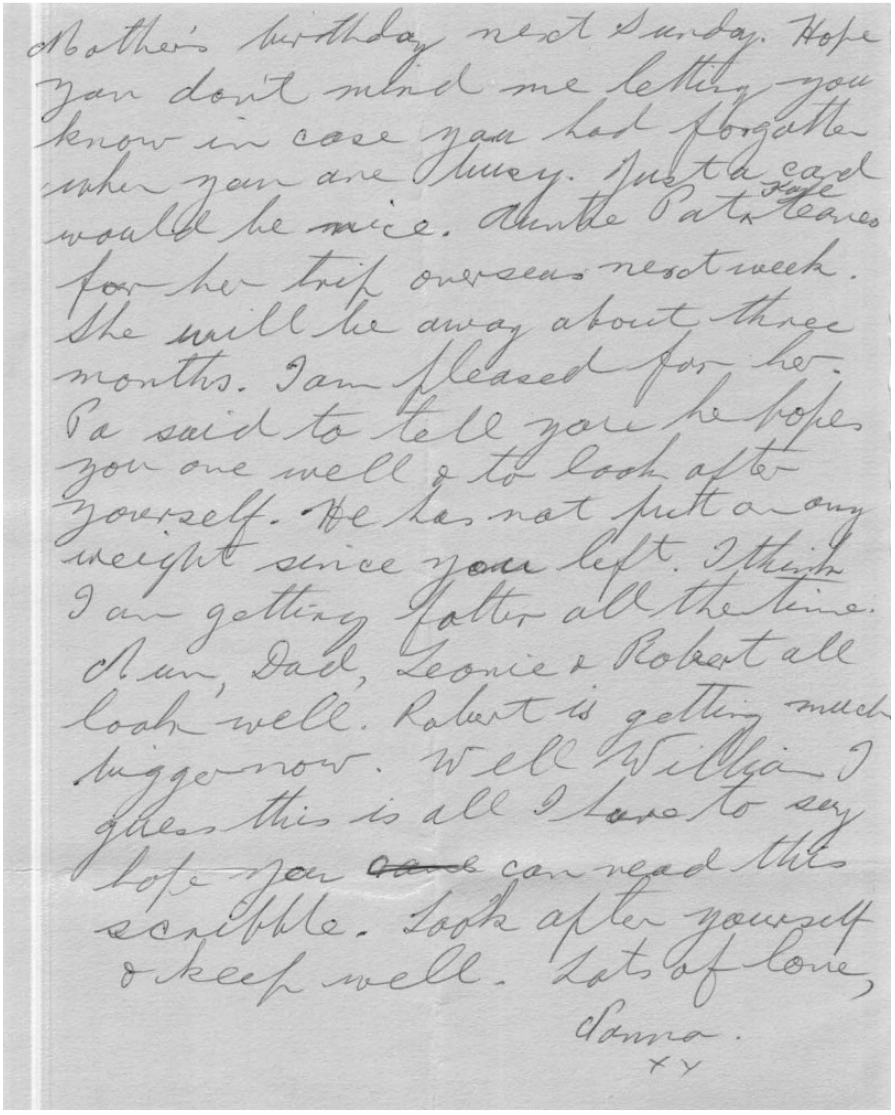
26-May-1985 - Letter from Nan Romviel



82 La Perouse St
Griffith A.C.T.
2603
26-5-85

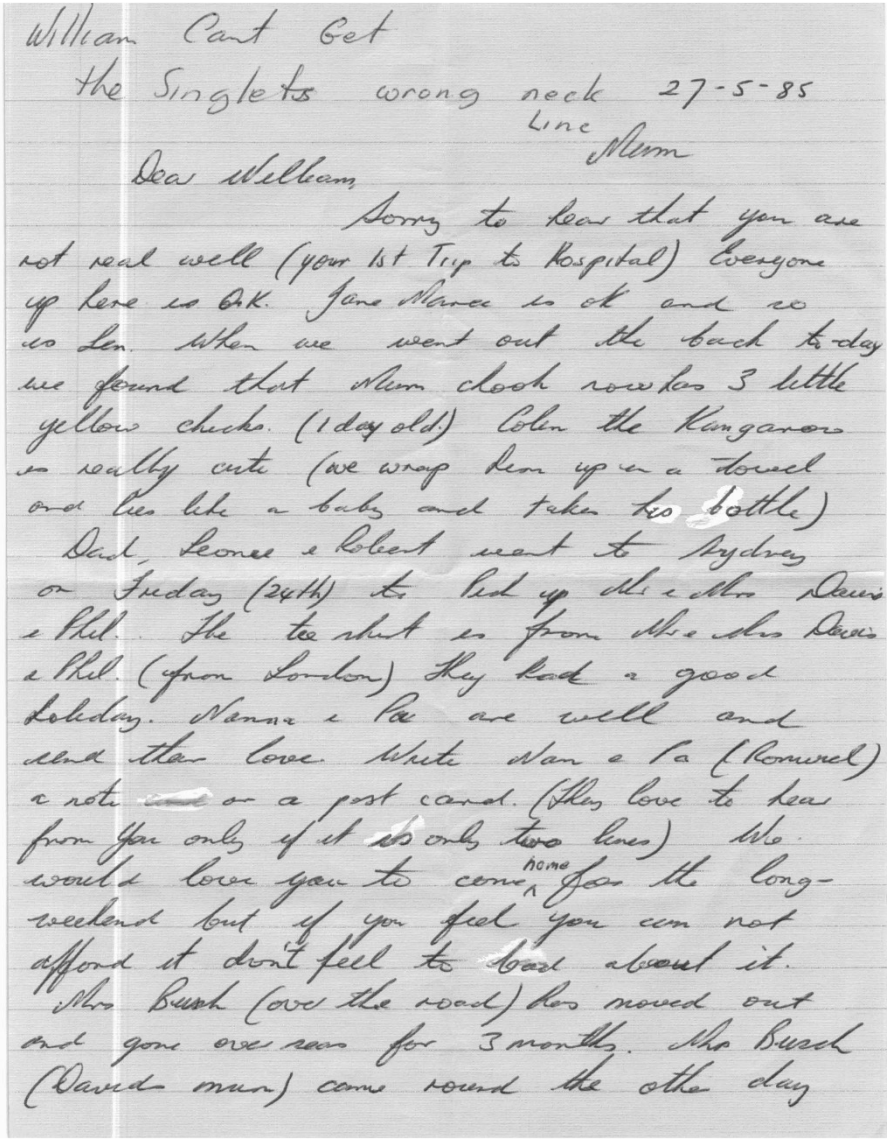
Dear William,

Here I am again to write you a few lines. I hope you received my last letter. It was posted the same time as your Mother's. I hope you are keeping well & still enjoying the Army. We think about you often & talk about you & wonder how you are going. Would like to hear from you one of these days when your home time. Mum said you may come home the long week-end. Would be great to see you again. If you don't make it then we will see you down there the next week. I guess you remember it is your



Mother's birthday next Sunday. Hope
you don't mind me letting you
know in case you had forgotten
when you are busy. Just a card
would be nice. Auntie Pat leaves
for her trip overseas next week.
She will be away about three
months. I am pleased for her.
Pa said to tell you he hopes
you are well & to look after
yourself. He has not put on any
weight since you left. I think
I am getting fatter all the time.
Ann, Dad, Leonie & Robert all
look well. Robert is getting much
bigger now. Well Willya I
guess this is all I have to say
Love ~~Mam~~ can read this
scribble. Look after yourself
& keep well. Lots of love,
Donna.
X X

27-May-1985 - Letter from Mum



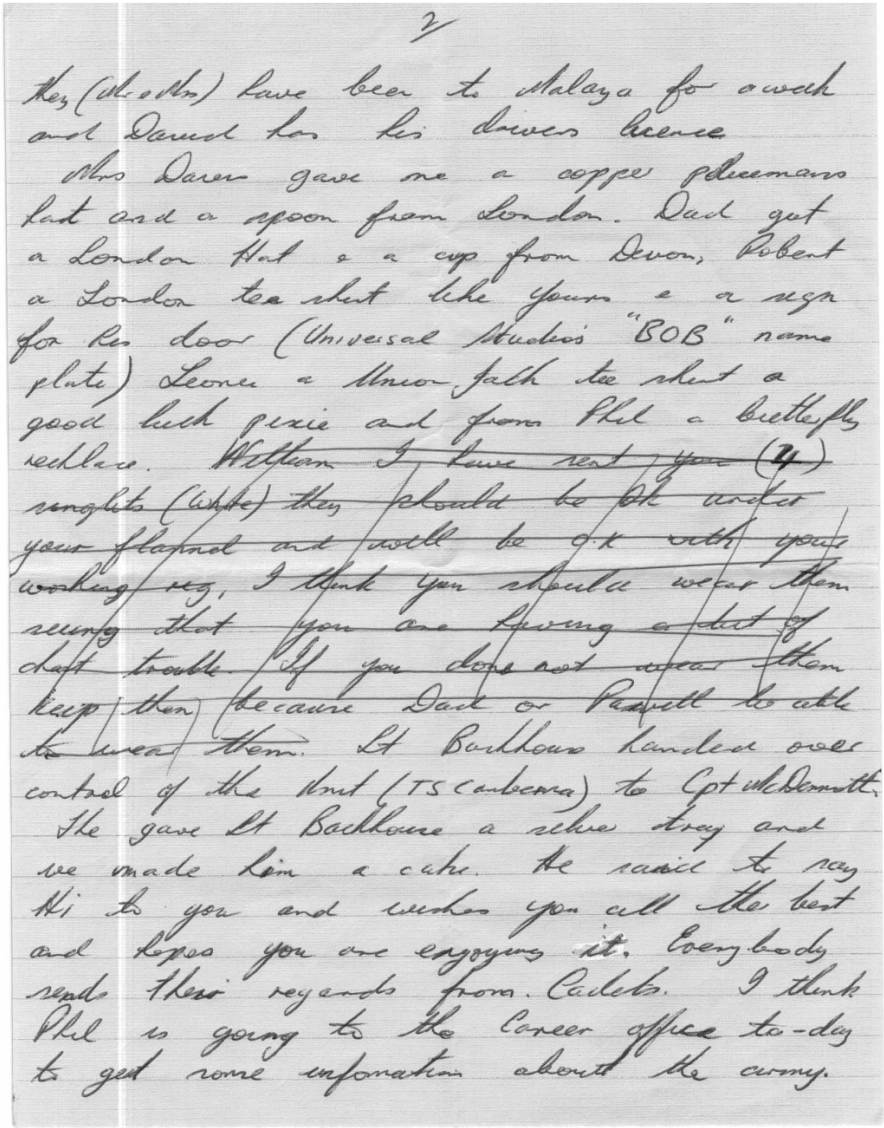
William Can't Get
the Singlets wrong neck 27-5-85
Line
Mum

Dear William,

Sorry to hear that you are not real well (your 1st Trip to Hospital) Everyone up here is O.K. Jane Nance is ok and so is Len. When we went out the back today we found that Mum chook now has 3 little yellow chicks. (1 day old) Colin the Kangaroo is really cute (we wrap him up in a towel and he's like a baby and take his bottle)

Dad, Leonie & Robert went to Sydney on Friday (24th) to bid up Mr & Mrs Davis & Phil. The tea shirt is from Mr & Mrs Davis & Phil. (from London) They had a good holiday. Nanna & Pa are well and send their love. Write Nan & Pa (Konnel) a note or a post card. (They love to hear from you only if it is only two lines) We would love you to come home for the long-weekend but if you feel you can not afford it don't feel to bad about it.

Mrs Bush (over the road) has moved out and gone overseas for 3 months. Mrs Bush (David mum) came round the other day



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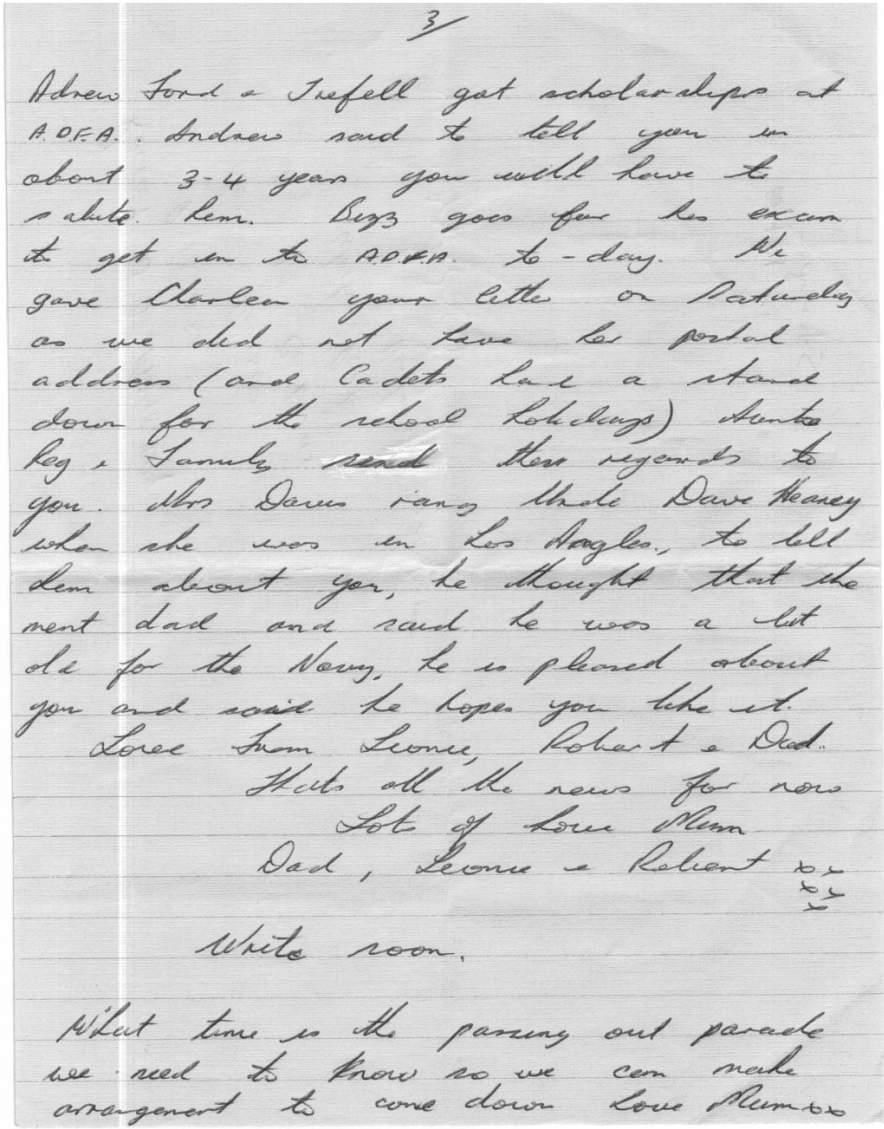
they (Mr & Mrs) have been to Malaya for a week and David has his drivers licence.

Mrs Dawes gave me a copper pleasmans hat and a spoon from London. Dad got a London Hat & a cup from Devon, Robert a London tea shirt like yours & a sign for his door (Universal Studios "BOB" name plate) Leonie a Union Jack tee shirt a good luck pixie and from Phil a butterfly necklace. ~~Wolfgan I have sent you (4) singlets (white) they should be OK under your flannel and will be O.K with your working reg, I think you should wear them seeing that you are having a bit of draft trouble. If you dont wear them keep them because Dad or Russell to able to wear them.~~ Lt Backhouse handed over control of the Unit (TS Canberra) to Cpt McDonnell. He gave Lt Backhouse a silver tray and we made him a cake. He asked to say Hi to you and wishes you all the best and hopes you are enjoying it. Everybody sends their regards from Cadets. I think Phil is going to the Career office to-day to get some information about the army.



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Adrew Ford & Trefell got scholarships at A.O.F.A. Andrew said to tell you in about 3-4 years you will have to salute Lem. Boys gone for his exam to get in to A.O.F.A. to-day. We gave Charles your letter on Saturday as we did not have his postal address (and Cadets had a stand down for the school holidays) thanks Peg & Family send their regards to you. Mrs Dawe rang Uncle Dave Veasey when she was in Los Angles, to tell them about you, he thought that he went dad and said he was a bit old for the Navy, he is pleased about you and said he hopes you like it.

Love from Leone, Robert & Dad.

Hope all the news for now

Lots of Love Mum

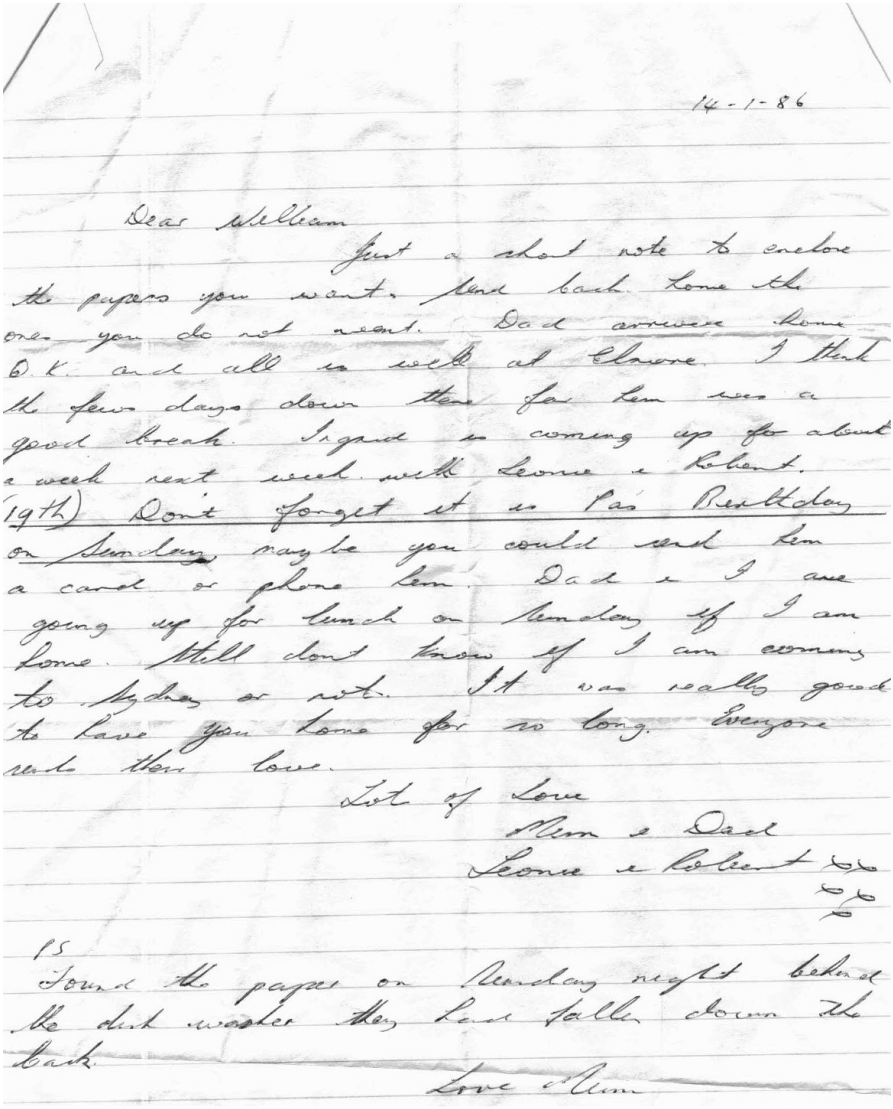
Dad, Leone & Robert xx

xx

Write soon.

What time is the passing out parade we need to know so we can make arrangement to come down Love Mum xx

14-Jan-1986 - Letter from Mum



14-1-86

Dear William

Just a short note to enclose the papers you want. Send back some the ones you do not want. Dad answers home O.K. and all is well at Elsmore. I think the few days down there for him was a good break. Ingrid is coming up for about a week next week with Leonie & Robert. (19th) Don't forget it is Pas Birthday on Sunday, maybe you could ring him a card or phone him. Dad & I are going up for lunch on Sunday if I am home. Still don't know if I am coming to Sydney or not. It was really good to have you home for so long. Everyone sends their love.

Lots of Love
Mum & Dad
Leonie & Robert xx
xo

PS
Found the papers on Monday night behind the desk washer they had fallen down the back.

Love Mum

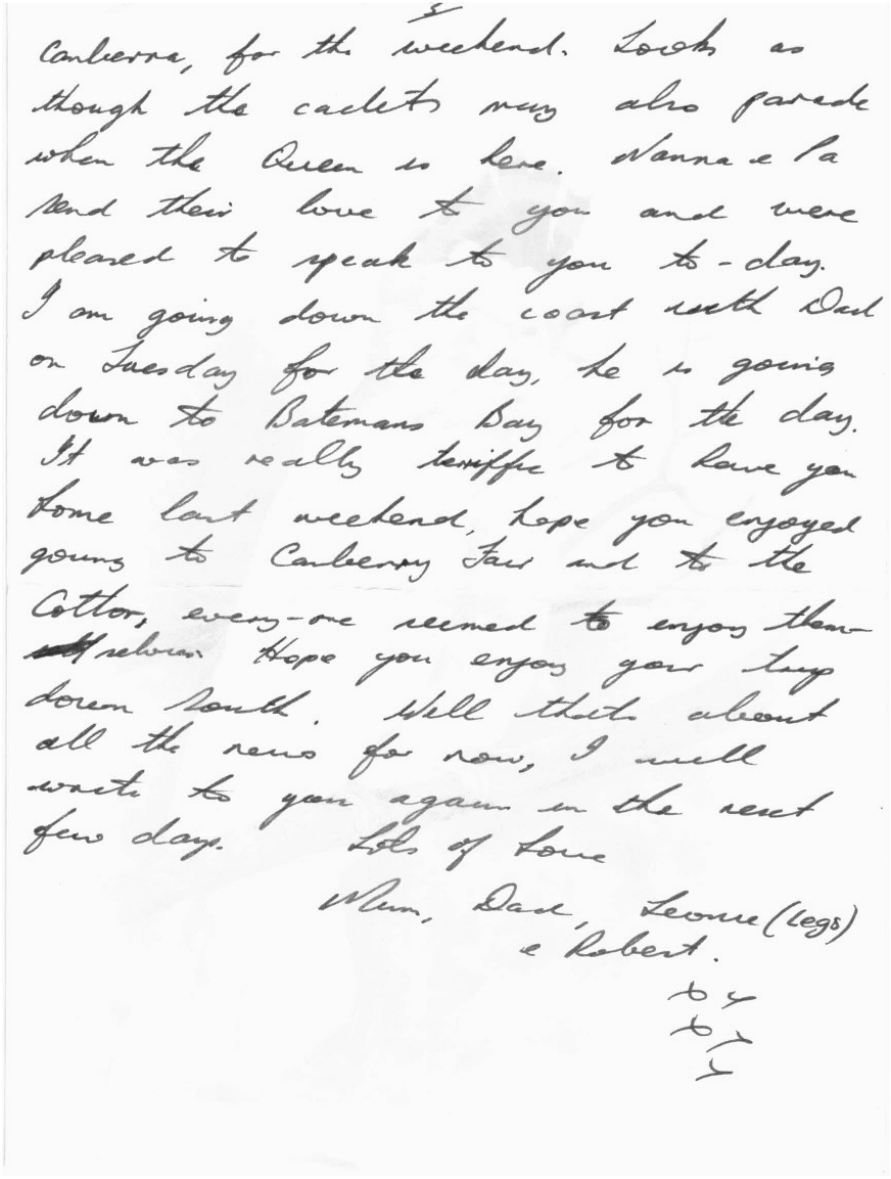
02-Feb-1986 - Letter from Mum

2-2-86

Dear William,

Hope this letter finds you well. Dad was pleased to hear from you on his birthday, I think he had a nice day. Wanna & Pa came out, Hat also came around. Wanna & Pa gave him sport trouses, and a shirt, Wanna also made Dad a fruit cake. He was pleased with your card and I also bought a shirt for him from you, it was not an expensive shirt one for around the yard, Bob also gave him a cup & saucer, plate all in one, I gave him a shirt and Leonie gave him a stable table for him to have breakfast in bed. Do you like the paper that I am writing this letter on, Velma gave it to me for Christmas, she asked me had I used it and she said it was for me to use to write to you. Hat said to say Hi, he is not going for his Navy interview as his boss won't give him the time off, so the Navy has put it off for a few weeks. Hat gave

Dad two boxes of 7 chocolate for his birthday. I have your new permit, when I get your ring back and also get your bank book fixed up and your medical card back I will send it to you all at once. Robert and Leonie went back to Cadets yesterday and Leonie now has her Leading Seaman and boat charge, Robert received his cooks badge. Robert also had to get all new uniforms as the shorts & trousers did not fit him. Christine sent Dad a card for his Birthday. Colin & Jane Nance are OK and no sign yet. It has been really hot up here, I suppose it has been hot in Sydney. Sandy from Cadets said to say Hi to you and he hope you are enjoying your self in the Navy. Clyde Kennedy also said to say Hi he tells me that his brother gets sea sick. Mr & Mrs Matthews, Mrs Bezzel & Bizz said to say Hi. Bizz has put in his papers to become a P.O. [redacted] Instructor. It looks as if the cadets may be marching in the Canberra Day parade, they have also asked for Cadets & Ballet sailors from HMAS



Canberra, for the weekend. Looks as though the cadets may also parade when the Queen is here. Wanna e Pa send their love to you and were pleased to speak to you to-day. I am going down the coast with Dad on Tuesday for the day, he is going down to Batemans Bay for the day. It was really terriffic to have you home last weekend, hope you enjoyed going to Canberra Fair and to the Cotton, every-one seemed to enjoy them ~~selves~~ selves. Hope you enjoy your trip down South. Well that about all the news for now, I will write to you again in the next few days. Lots of love

Mum, Dad, Leonie (legs)
& Robert.

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to r
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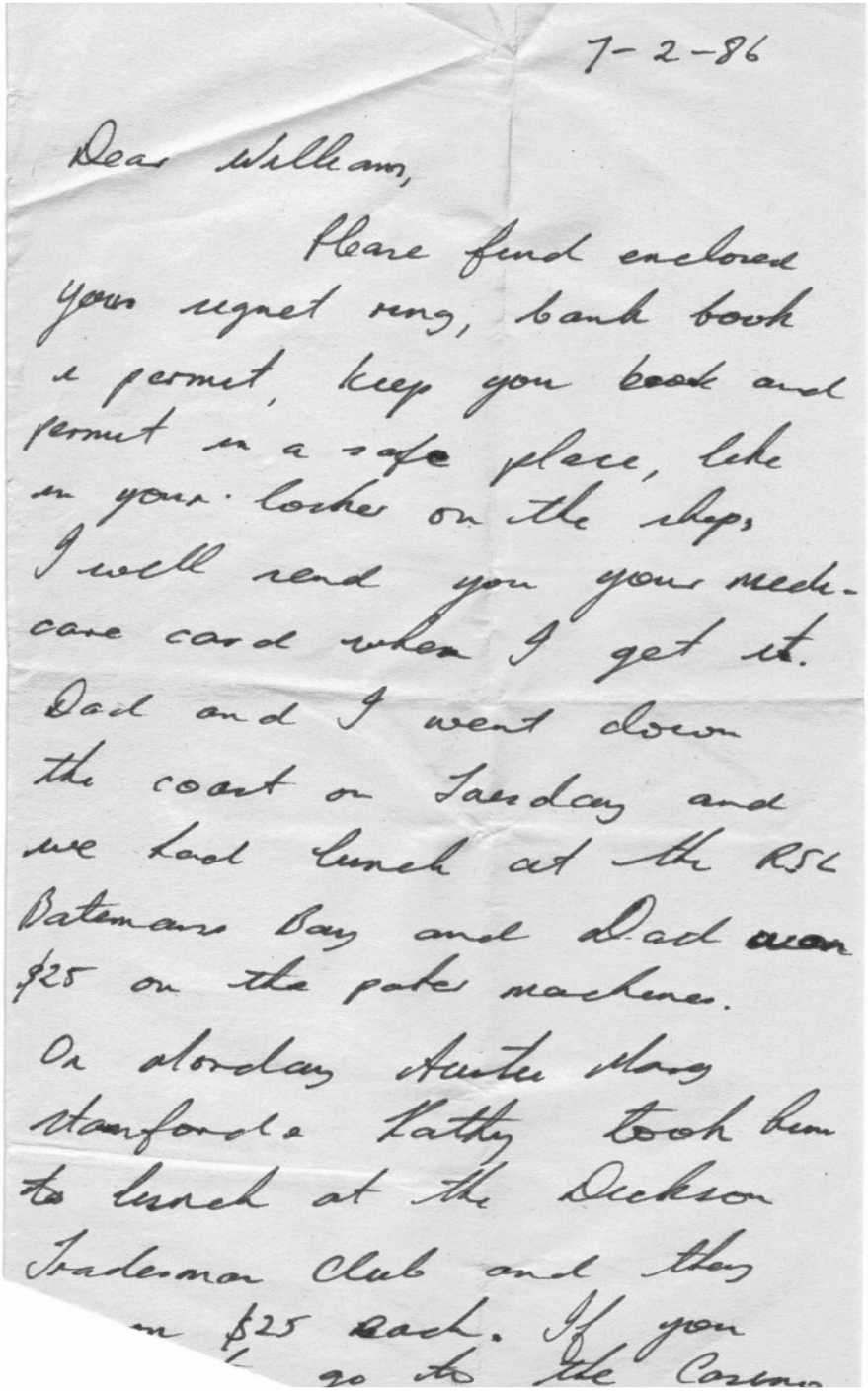
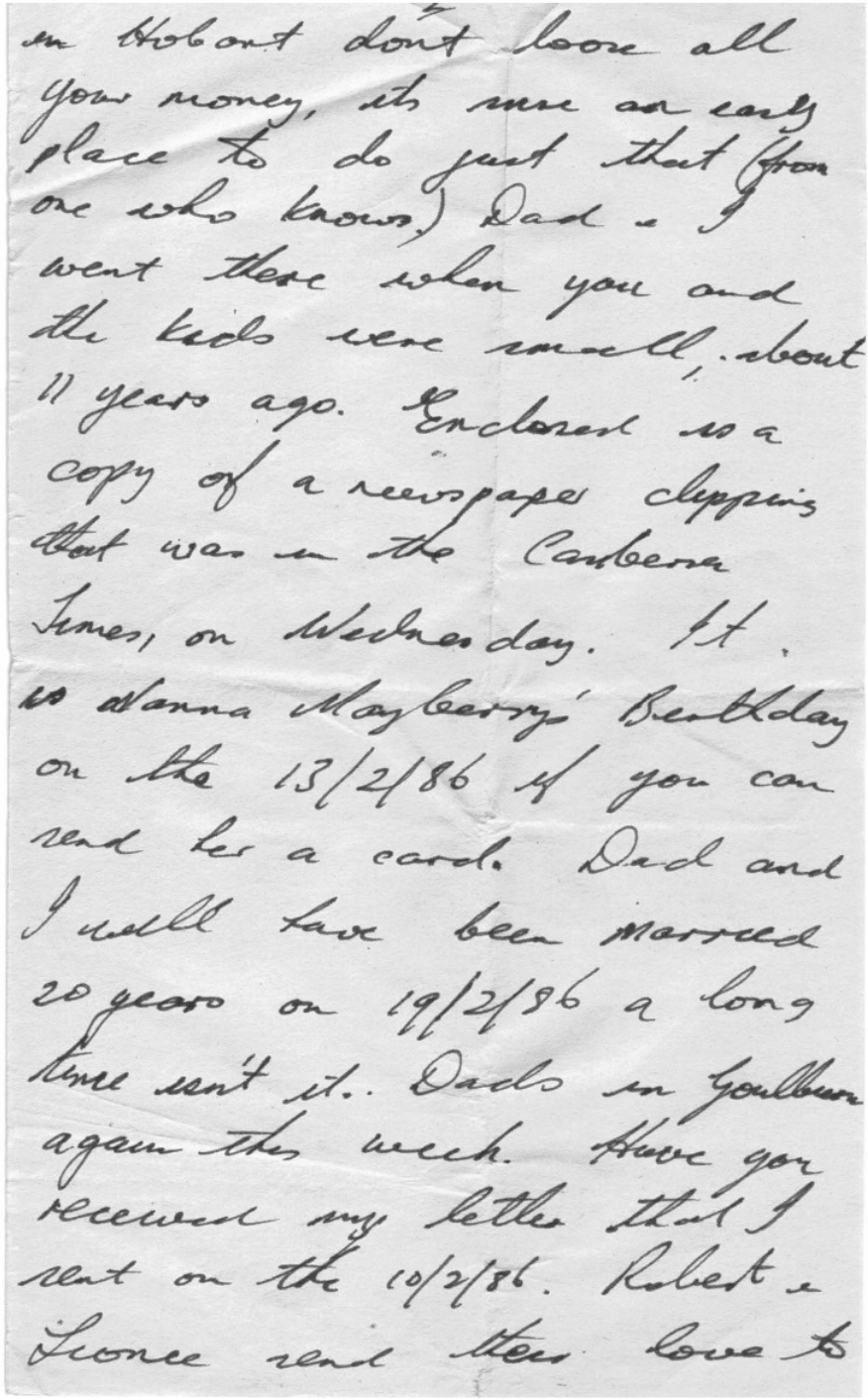
07-Feb-1986 - Letter from Mum



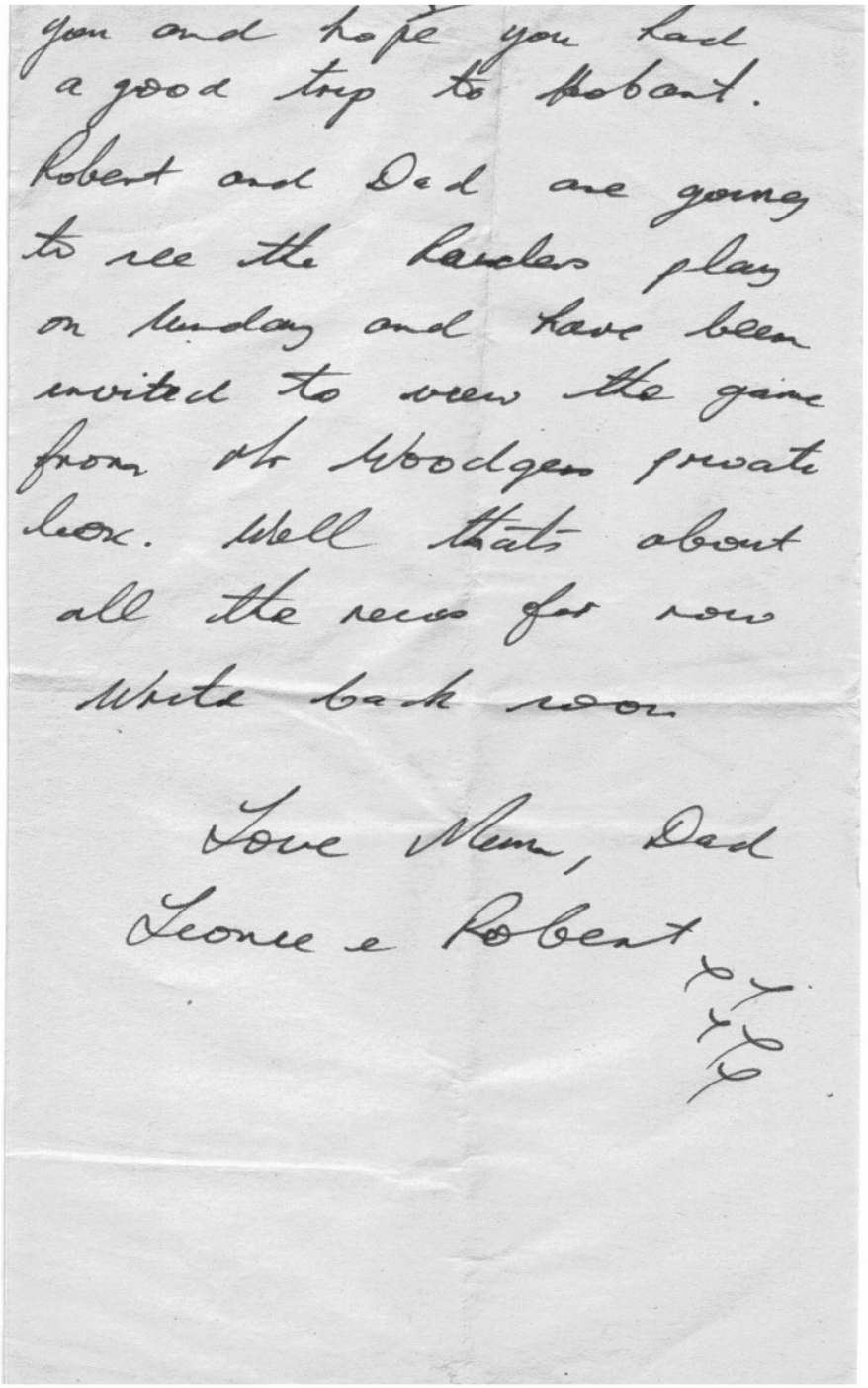
7-2-86

Dear William,

Please find enclosed your signet ring, bank book & permit, keep you book and permit in a safe place, like in your locker on the ship, I will send you your medicare card when I get it. Dad and I went down the coast on Tuesday and we had lunch at the RSL Batemans Bay and Dad won $25 on the poke machines. On Monday Auntie Mary Stanford & Cathy took him to lunch at the Dickson Tradesman Club and they won $25 each. If you [illegible] to the Carav



in Hobart don't loose all your money, its not an easy place to do just that (from one who knows) Dad + I went there when you and the kids were small, about 11 years ago. Enclosed is a copy of a newspaper clipping that was in the Canberra Times, on Wednesday. It is Donna Mayberry's Birthday on the 13/2/86 if you can send her a card. Dad and I will have been married 20 years on 19/2/86 a long time isn't it.. Dads in Goulburn again this week. Have you received my letter that I sent on the 10/2/86. Robert + Leonie send their love to



you and hope you had
a good trip to Hobart.
Robert and Dad are going
to see the Bandas play
on Sunday and have been
invited to view the game
from the Woodgers private
box. Well that's about
all the news for now
Write back soon

Love Mom, Dad
Jeonne e Robert

XX
XX
O

12-Feb-1986 - Letter from Mum

12-2-86
10-30 PM

Dear William,

We received your post card yesterday and it was good to hear from you. We are all well at home, hope this letter finds you the same way. Hobart is really a lovely place, what did you think of the Casino, really a lovely building so lovely inside. Leone & Robert said to say thanks for the Tasi Devil cards. Dad is still working in Goulburn, look as if he will be there for a few more weeks, he is staying down there all week and coming home on fridays, it saves a lot of travel.

Well I am enclosing a copy of the latest newsletter from Cadets you might like to read what they will be up to for the first half of the year. Clyde's brother may also be interested to know that Clyde is doing. What do you think about Ozzy being a PO Instructor? Keep you fingers crossed that Leonie might get picked to open the car door for the Queen. I don't think Robert will be able to march in the parade for the Queen as he is to short. They have requested billets for H.M.A.S Canberra sailors and we have offered to take ~~them~~ two if you are coming home that weekend 14/3/86 -

2

17/3/86 (Canberra Day weekend) they will not be using your bed, so still come home if you can. On the day the Queen is in Canberra, H.M.A.S Melbourne Association old boys will be marching behind their banner and he have ~~come~~ talked Dad into marching if he still require chaps. (I sure hope he can march with them) Leonie & Robert want to know will you be home for Easter because if you will be they are not going on the weekend postings. (I suppose it is really to early to know that is going on that far off). Donna & Pa received your post card and were really pleased to get it. Sorry about the writing but I am getting a bit tired, so I think I will sign off now. Keep well and look after yourself. Dad, Leonie & Robert send their love to you.

Have you received the last two letter that I sent to you. Write soon

Lots of love
Mum, Dad, Leonie
& Robert xxoo

P.S Regards to Mitch xx

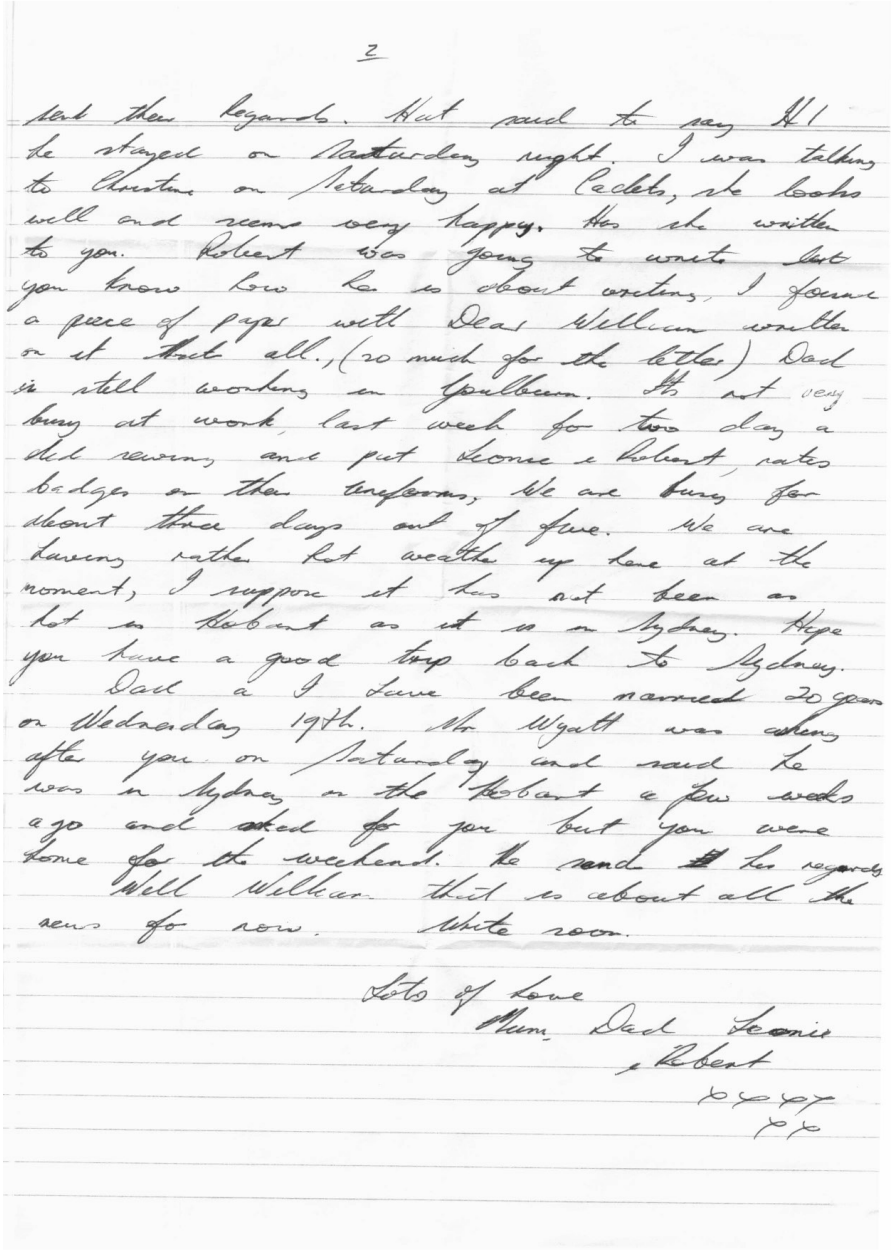
17-Feb-1986 - Letter from Mum

17-2-86

Dear William,

Just a few lines to say Hi. Hope you are well and also hope you enjoyed your trip to Hobart. I have got a lot of old club badges for you to send to your friends in Hobart. Thanks for the Post Card. Did you receive any cards or letters for St. Valentine's Day.

I had to collect Robert from school on Thursday as some kid threw a tennis ball at him and it hit him in the ear. (He said he could hear bells for a long time) Leonie was off school on Friday as she had tonsilitis, but she is O.K now. I suppose Leonie told you about the fire we had under the little van when we were at Uncle Johns, we were all got a fright. Robert went out with Kent on Saturday night, bowling and to Mc Donalds, Leonie wasn't able to go because of her sore throat. When we were at Auntie Mary & Uncle Johns place, Elaine and Tony were there and I said to Leonie the Kennedy live in Archerfield, and Elaine said she knew a chap called Steve Kennedy, and Maree does he remember Elaine Hanford, I think they went to school to-gether. Auntie Mary & Uncle John send their love and regards. Jane Maree is O.K but one of the brown ducks was sad and poor old Dad had to chop off its head. I don't think he was to happy at having to do it, but he had no choice. Norma & Pa came out for dinner on Saturday night and they



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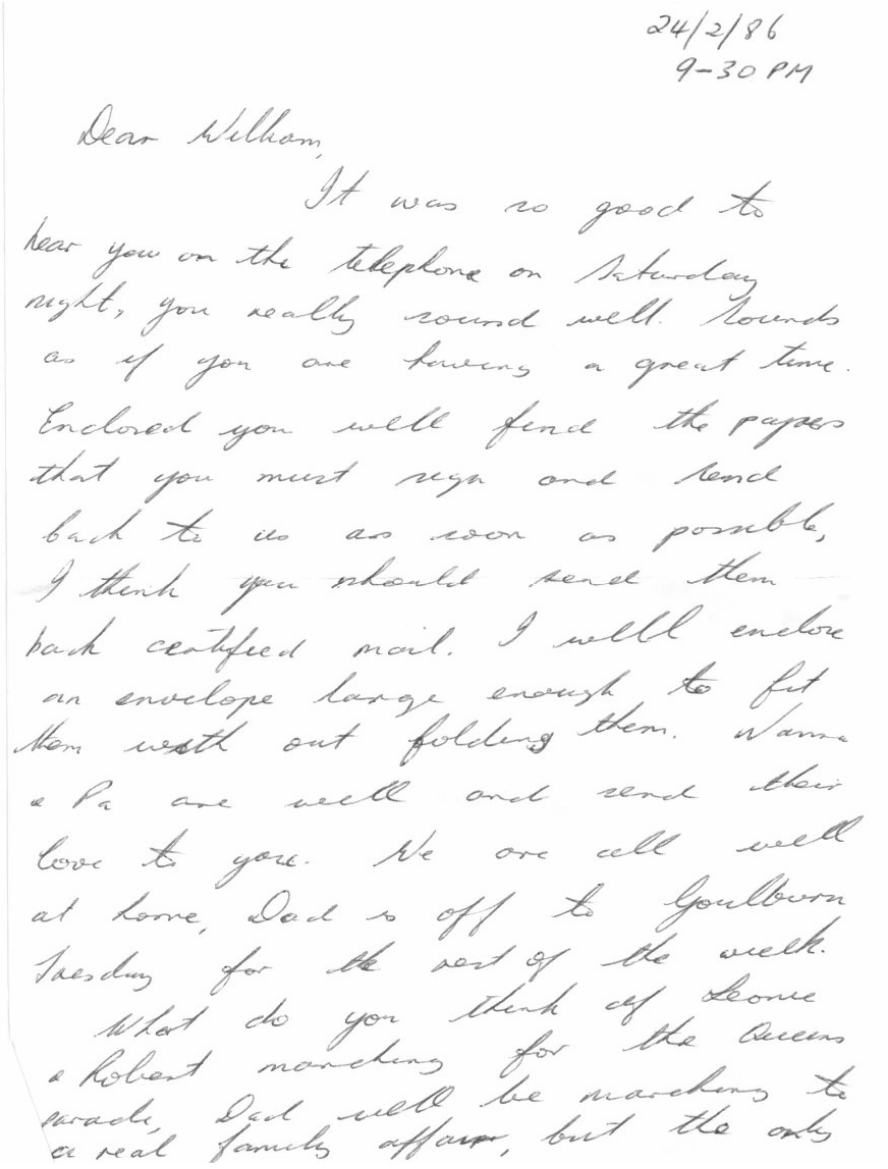
sent their regards. Kat said to say Hi I
he stayed on Saturday night. I was talking
to Christine on Saturday at Cadets, she looks
well and seems very happy. Has she written
to you. Robert was going to write but
you know how he is about writing, I found
a piece of paper with Dear William written
on it but that all, (so much for the letter) Dad
is still working on Yarlbeen. Is not very
busy at work, last week for two days a
lot ravens and put Leonie & Robert, rates
badges on their uniforms, We are busy for
about three days out of five. We are
having rather hot weather up here at the
moment, I suppose it has not been as
hot in Hobart as it is in Sydney. Hope
you have a good trip back to Sydney.
Dad & I have been married 20 years
on Wednesday 19th. Mr Wyatt was asking
after you on Saturday and said he
was in Sydney & the Hobart a few weeks
ago and asked for you but you were
home for the weekend. He send his regards
Well William that is about all the
news for now. Write soon.

Lots of love
Mum, Dad, Leonie
& Robert
xxxxx
xx

24-Feb-1986 - Letter from Mum

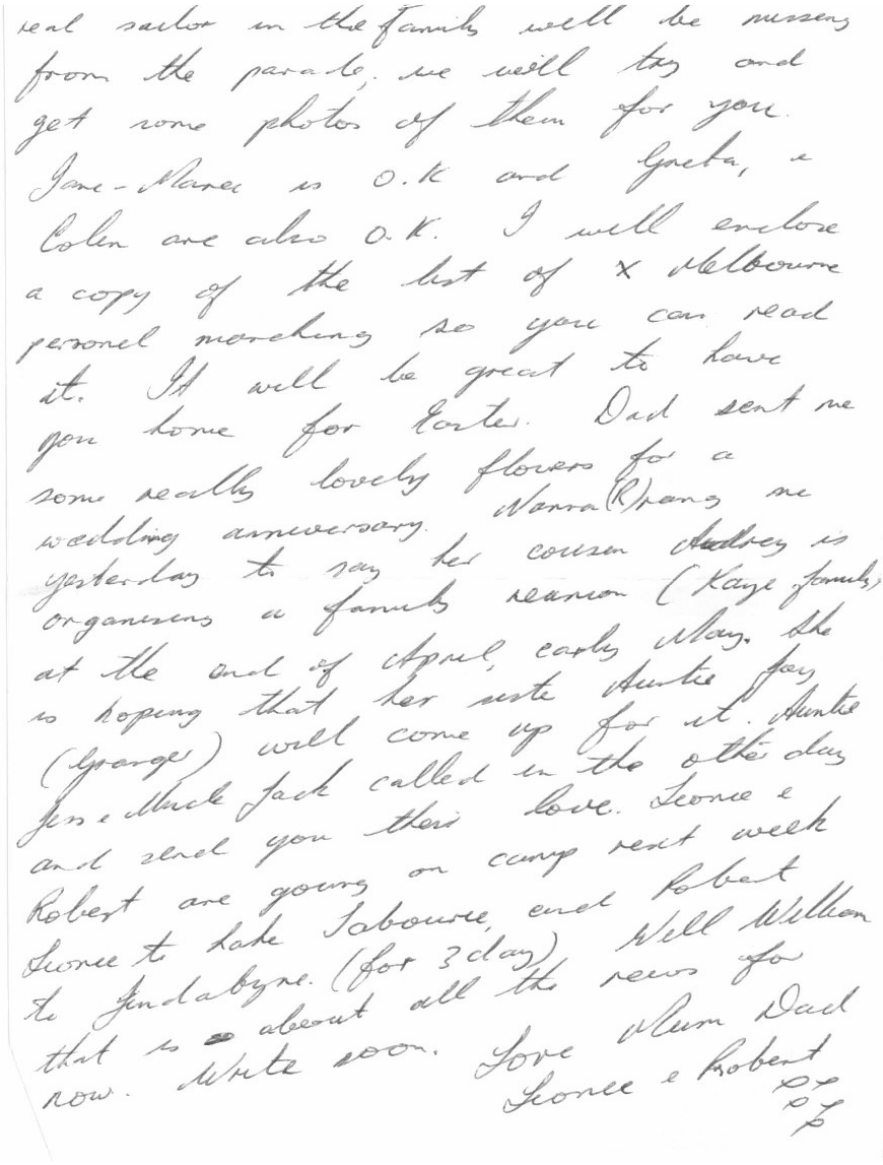


24/2/86
9-30 PM

Dear William,

It was so good to hear you on the telephone on Saturday night, you really sound well. Sounds as if you are having a great time. Enclosed you will find the papers that you must sign and send back to us as soon as possible, I think you should send them back certified mail. I will enclose an envelope large enough to fit them with out folding them. Wanna & Pa are well and send their love to you. We are all well at home, Dad is off to Goulburn Tuesday for the rest of the week.

What do you think of Leonie & Robert marching for the Queens Parade, Dad will be marching to a real family affair, but the only



real sailor in the family will be missing
from the parade, we will try and
get some photos of them for you.
Jane-Marie is O.K and Greta, e
Colin are also O.K. I will enclose
a copy of the list of x Melbourne
personel marching so you can read
it. It will be great to have
you home for Xmas. Dad sent me
some really lovely flowers for a
wedding anniversary. Nanna (Prang) rang me
yesterday to say her cousin Audrey is
organising a family reunion (Kaye family)
at the end of April, early May. She
is hoping that her wife Auntie Joy
(George) will come up for it. Auntie
Jess & Uncle Jack called in the other day
and send you their love. Leonie e
Robert are going on camp next week
Leonie to Lake Tabourie, and Robert
to Jindabyne. (for 3 day) Well Mother
that is about all the news for
now. Write soon. Love Mum Dad
Leonie e Robert
XX

05-Mar-1986 - Letter from Mum

5-3-86

Dear William

Just a few lines to say Hi. Did you receive the vacation papers in the mail could you send them back as soon as possible, also did you receive your bills that I sent and also the years. Well the Navy parade for the Queen was really terrific, Leonie & Robert & Dad all looked good. Robert had a kind of a white (long suit) he really look like a little sailor doll, Leonie also looked really smart, and Dad remember up ok too; Dad I think really enjoyed the march and meeting old friends. We have some photos and the Taree ret has it on video.

We had two units of cadets marching 1 boys & 1 girls, some cadets from Sydney came up for the march, all our girls marched and they made the numbers up with girls from Sydney.

The boys unit was made up of some of our boys and the rest from Sydney. Leonie was really happy because PO Honer and her son and also close she knew and a girl she knew came up for the weekend she knows all these people from her trip to Spectacle Island in December.

Chris & Jon both marched. Dad is not staying down in Goulburn any more but is going down every day to do the banking (only). Leonie and Robert have gone on Yr 10 & Yr 8 Camps to-day. Leonie to Lake Talawanie and Robert to Jindabyne, NSW for 3 days Wannaue Pa send their love to you and hope you are well. All the animals are O.K and Jane Marie is O.K too.

2

I will enclose a copy of the programme and also a press clipping from the Canberra Times.
I have been off work last week with a stomach problem but all is OK now. I am in the office on my own this week as Mrs Watson (grandmother) died and he had to go to Newcastle for a week.
I forgot to tell you that the kids Leonie & Robert were in a guard of honour at the Federal Golf Club for veterans from H.M.A.S. Warramunga and Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mike Hudson spoke to Robert "asked him how old are you" Robert said "13yr 8months Sir, and Rear Admiral said "Do you like cadets" Robert said "YES SIR" Robert was so excited about him talking to him. I am going out to Cadets to help Mrs Cole out on Saturday as she will be on her own out there, Mike Campbell is supposed to come but you know how he is not very reliable.
I will not send you any photos of the parade I will keep them at home and you can see them when you come home at Easter. Well I have just about run out of news for now. Hope you are enjoying your trip to Fiji. Leonie and Robert were pleased to receive your letter. Tonia also received a letter from Mitch. Everyone send their love to you. Write soon

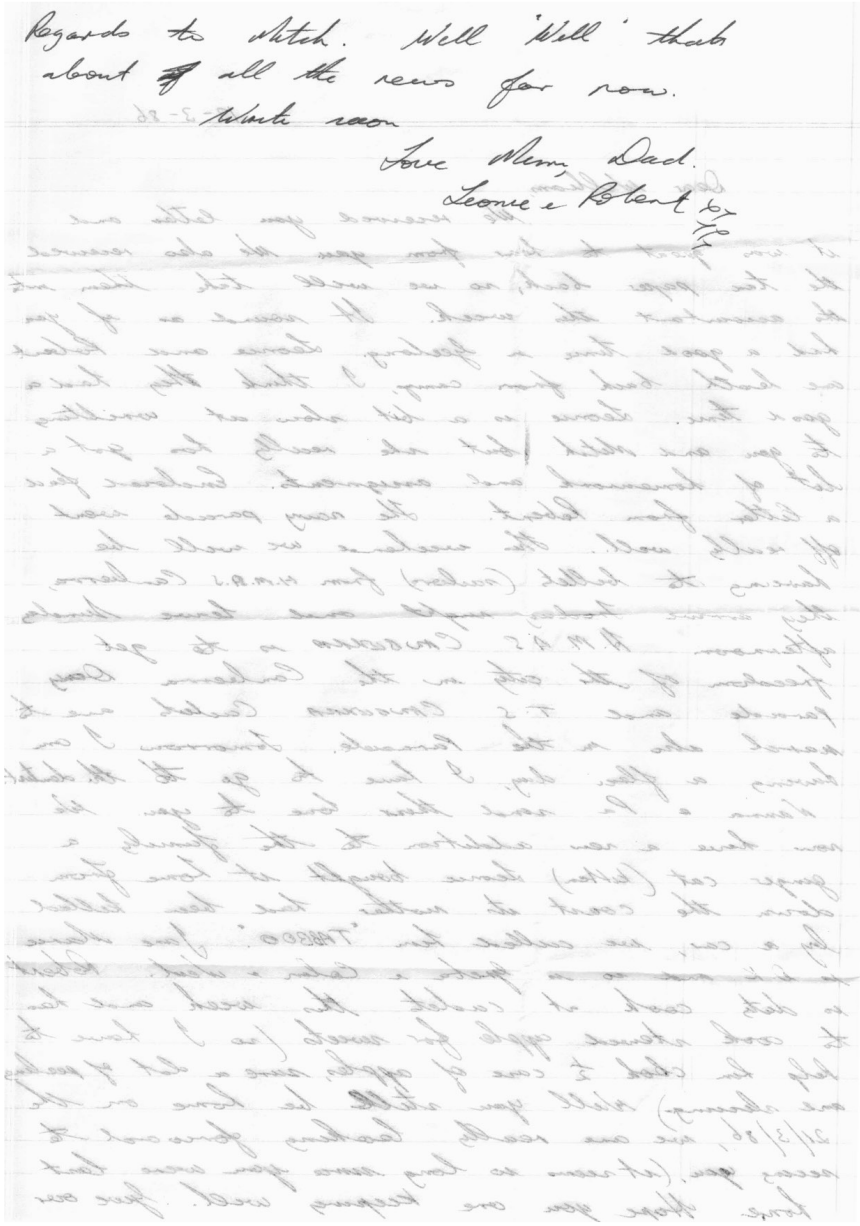
Love Mum, Dad
Leonie & Robert

13-Mar-1986 - Letter from Mum

13-3-86

Dear William,

We received you letter and it was great to hear from you. We also received the tax papers back, so we will take them into the accountant this week. It sound as if you had a good time in Geelong. Leonie and Robert are both back from camp, I think they had a good time. Leonie is a bit slow at writting to you and Mitch but she really has got a lot of homework and assignments. Enclosed find a letter from Robert. The navy parade went off really well. This weekend we will be having to billets (sailors) from H.M.A.S Canberra, they arrive Friday night and leave Sunday afternoon H.M.A.S CANBERRA is to get freedom of the city in the Canberra Day parade and T.S CANBERRA Cadets are to march also in the Parade. Tomorrow I am having a flexi day, I have to go to the dentist. Wanna & Pa send there love to you. We now have a new addition to the family a ginger cat (kitten) Leonie bought it home from down the coast its mother had been killed by a car, we called him "TABBOO". Jane Marie is O.K and so is Greta & Colin & Wendi. Robert is duty cook at cadets this week and has to cook stewed apple for sweets (so I have to help him cook & care of apples, sure a lot of peeling and slicing) Well you will be home on the 21/3/86, we are really looking forward to seeing you. (it seems so long since you were last home. Hope you are keeping well. Give our



Regards to Mitch. Well 'Well' that's about all the news for now.
Write soon
Love Mum, Dad.
Leonie & Robert xx

09-Apr-1986 - Letter from Mum

9-4-86

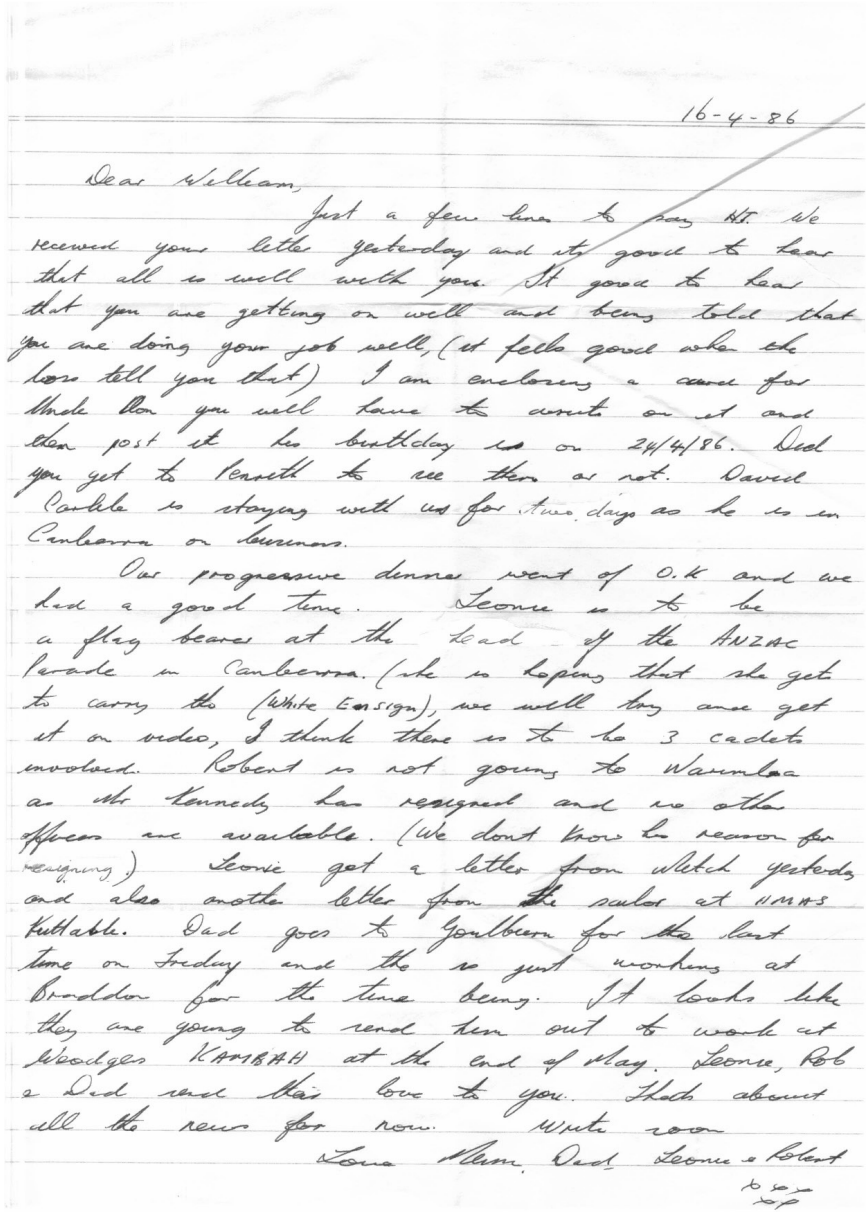
Dear William,

Hope this letter finds you well. How was your trip home? It was really good to have you home. To-night, Pa, Robert, Leonie & me are going up to Red Hill to see if we can spot Halley's Comet. (Robert is really interested to see it). Nanna and Pa are well. Dad and I are going to Penrith for Uncle Don's surprise Birthday party, we will be down in Penrith 23rd night and part of the 24th, coming back home on the 24/4/86 - Nanna & Pa will be at home with Leonie & Robert. The cat (Taboo) still likes the rat and mouse that you got him. I am writing this letter at work as I have nothing to do. This week-end it is the progressive dinner for cadets it should be fun as everyone has to go in bad taste. (dress) I have rang Auntie Thelma and Uncle Paul and everything is O.K for me to stay with them in May. I have booked my ticket to Sydney by train to Sydney, 6/5/86 coming home 14/5/86 There is not really all that much news to tell you. Happy Anniversary for the 9th April (1 Year) Mr. Watson baby son Christopher took his first steps the other day and Mr Watson said there is no Stopping him now. Leonie & Robert & Dad Send their Love to you. What did the Blakes think of the pictures of the kids. Don't forget to let me know any further details about your trip to hospital. Say Hi to Mitch and all your mates from us. What Ship is Anthony Rogers on. Well that's all the news for now

Write Soon

Love Mum

16-Apr-1986 - Letter from Mum



16-4-86

Dear William,

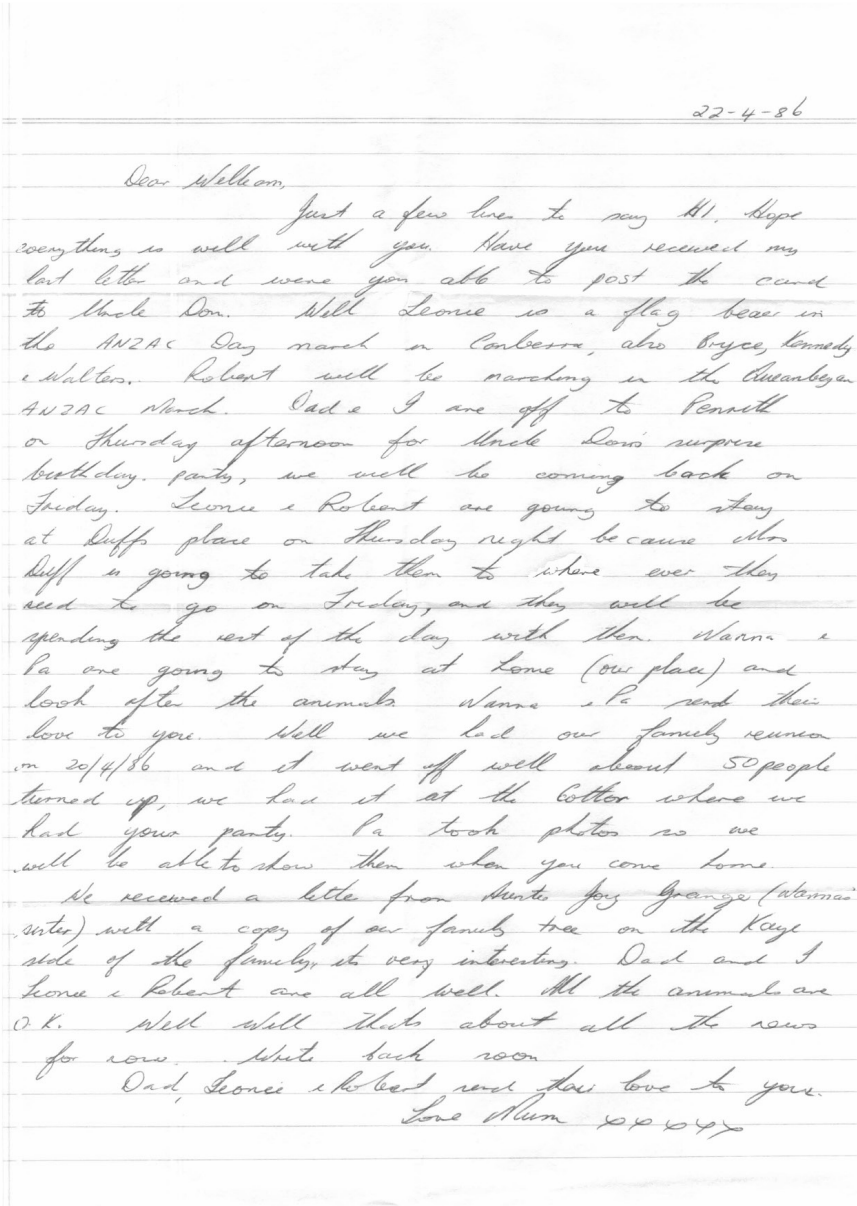
Just a few lines to say Hi. We received your letter yesterday and it's good to hear that all is well with you. It's good to hear that you are getting on well and being told that you are doing your job well, (it feels good when they here tell you that) I am enclosing a card for Uncle Don you will have to write on it and then post it for his birthday is on 24/4/86. Did you get to Penrith to see them or not. David Carlile is staying with us for two days as he is in Canberra on business.

Our progressive dinner went of O.K and we had a good time. Leonie is to be a flag bearer at the head of the ANZAC parade in Canberra. (she is hoping that she gets to carry the (White Ensign), we will try and get it on video, I think there is to be 3 cadets involved. Robert is not going to Waverton as Mr Kennedy has resigned and no other officers are available. (We don't know the reason for resigning.) Leonie got a letter from Mitch yesterday and also another letter from the sailor at HMAS Kuttabul. Dad goes to Goulburn for the last time on Friday and then is just working at Braddon for the time being. It looks like they are going to send him out to work at Rhodges KANGAH at the end of May. Leonie, Rob & Dad send their love to you. Think about all the news for now. Write soon

Love Mum, Dad, Leonie & Robert

P.S.

22-Apr-1986 - Letter from Mum



22-4-86

Dear William,

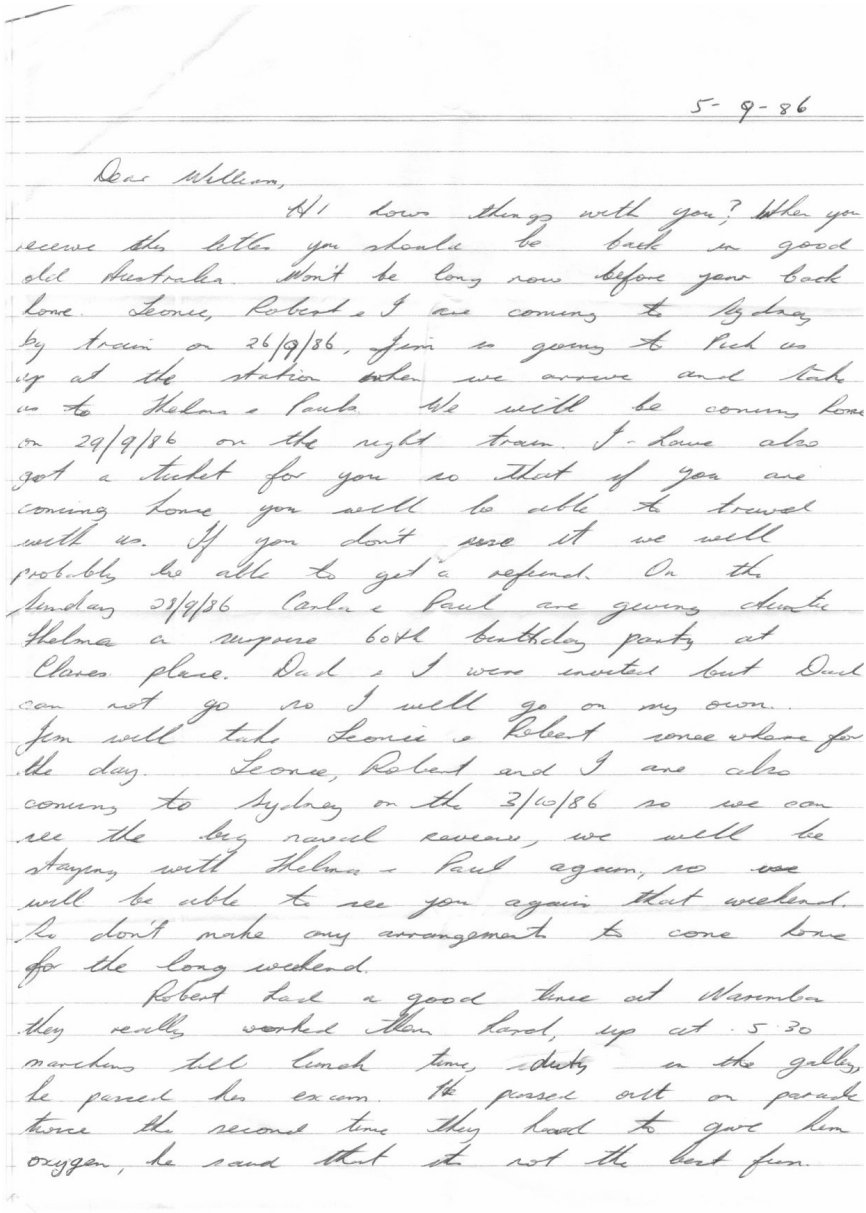
Just a few lines to say Hi, Hope everything is well with you. Have you received my last letter and were you able to post the card to Uncle Don. Well Leonie is a flag bearer in the ANZAC Day march in Canberra, also Bryce Kennedy & Walters. Robert will be marching in the Queanbeyan ANZAC March. Dad & I are off to Penrith on Thursday afternoon for Uncle Don's surprise birthday party, we will be coming back on Friday. Leonie & Robert are going to stay at Duffs place on Thursday night because Mrs Duff is going to take them to where ever they need to go on Friday, and they will be spending the rest of the day with them. Nanna & Pa are going to stay at home (our place) and look after the animals. Nanna & Pa send their love to you. Well we had our family reunion on 20/4/86 and it went off well about 50 people turned up, we had it at the Cotter where we had your party. Pa took photos so we will be able to show them when you come home.

We received a letter from Aunty Joy Grange (Nanna's sister) with a copy of our family tree on the Kaye side of the family, it's very interesting. Dad and I Leonie & Robert are all well. All the animals are O.K. Well will that's about all the news for now. Write back soon.

Dad, Leonie & Robert send their love to you.

Love Mum xxxxx

09-May-1986 - Letter from Mum

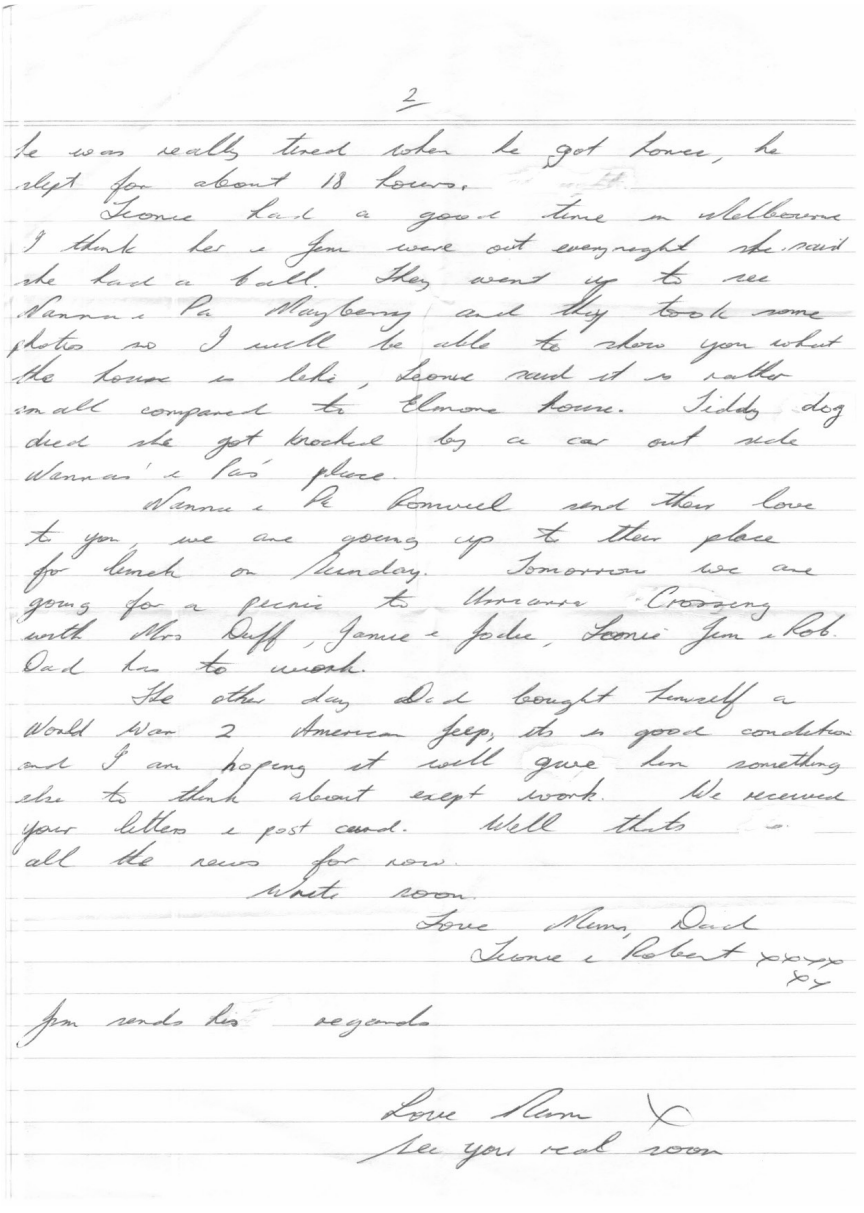


5-9-86

Dear William,

Hi how things with you? When you receive the letter you should be back in good old Australia. Won't be long now before your back home. Leonie, Robert & I are coming to Sydney by train on 26/9/86. Jim is going to pick us up at the station when we arrive and take us to Helma & Paul's. We will be coming home on 29/9/86 on the night train. I have also got a ticket for you so that if you are coming home you will be able to travel with us. If you don't use it we will probably be able to get a refund. On the Sunday 28/9/86 Carla & Paul are giving Auntie Helma a surprise 60th birthday party at Claves place. Dad & I were invited but Dad can not go so I will go on my own. Jim will take Leonie & Robert somewhere for the day. Leonie, Robert and I are also coming to Sydney on the 3/10/86 so we can see the big naval reviews, we will be staying with Helma & Paul again, so we will be able to see you again that weekend. So don't make any arrangements to come home for the long weekend.

Robert had a good time at Waverley they really worked them hard, up at 5:30 marching till lunch time, duty in the galley, he passed his exam. He passed out on parade twice the second time they had to give him oxygen, he said that it not the best fun.



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he was really tired when he got home, he slept for about 18 hours.

Leonie had a good time in Melbourne I think her & Jim were out every night she said she had a ball. They went up to see Nanna & Pa Mayberry and they took some photos so I will be able to show you what the house is like, Leonie said it is rather small compared to Elmore home. Tiddy dog died she got knocked by a car out side Nanna's & Pa's place.

Nanna & Pa Bonwick send their love to you, we are going up to their place for lunch on Sunday. Tomorrow we are going for a picnic to Unnamed Crossing with Mrs Duff, Janice & Jodie, Leonie Jim & Rob. Dad has to work.

The other day Dad bought himself a World War 2 American Jeep, its a good condition and I am hoping it will give him something else to think about exept work. We received your letters & post cards. Well thats all the news for now.

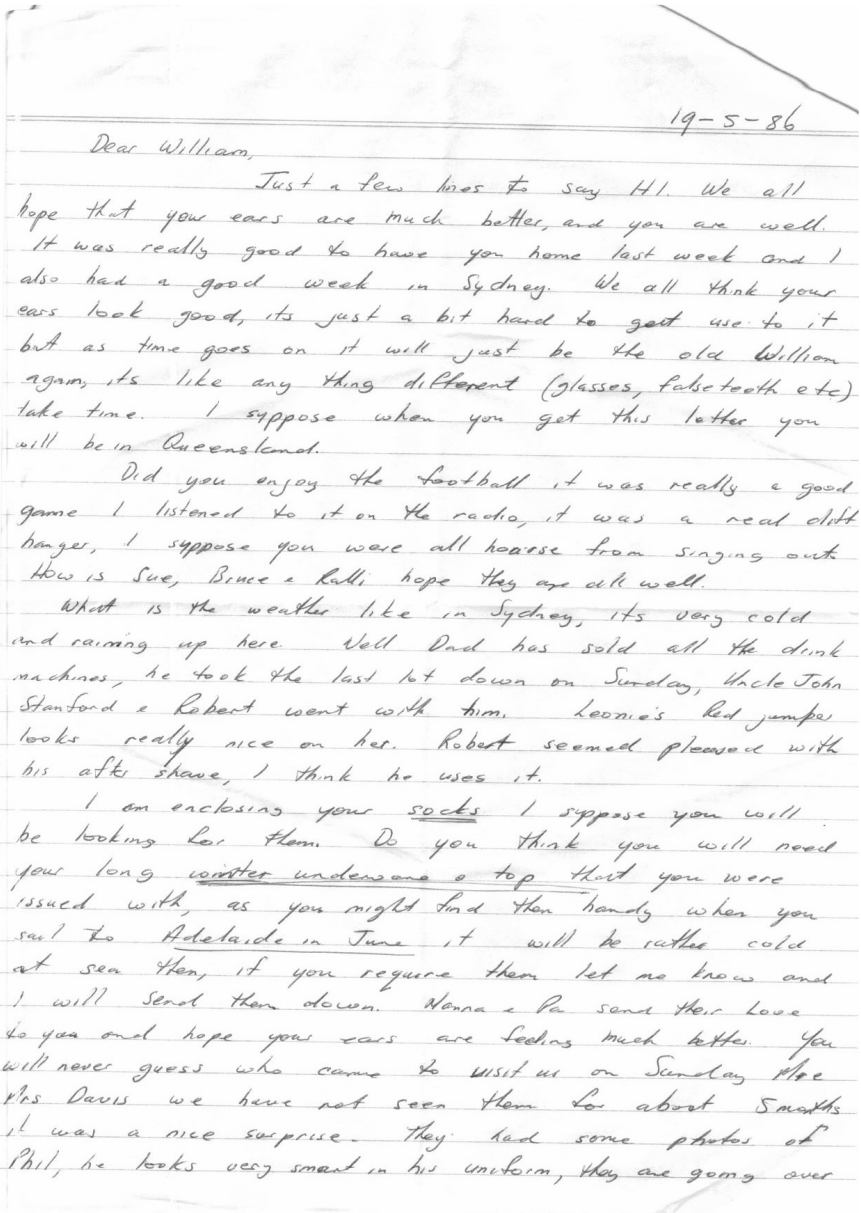
Write soon.

Love Mum, Dad
Leonie & Robert xxxxx
xx

Jim sends his regards

Love Mum X
See you real soon

19-May-1986 -Letter from Mum



19-5-86

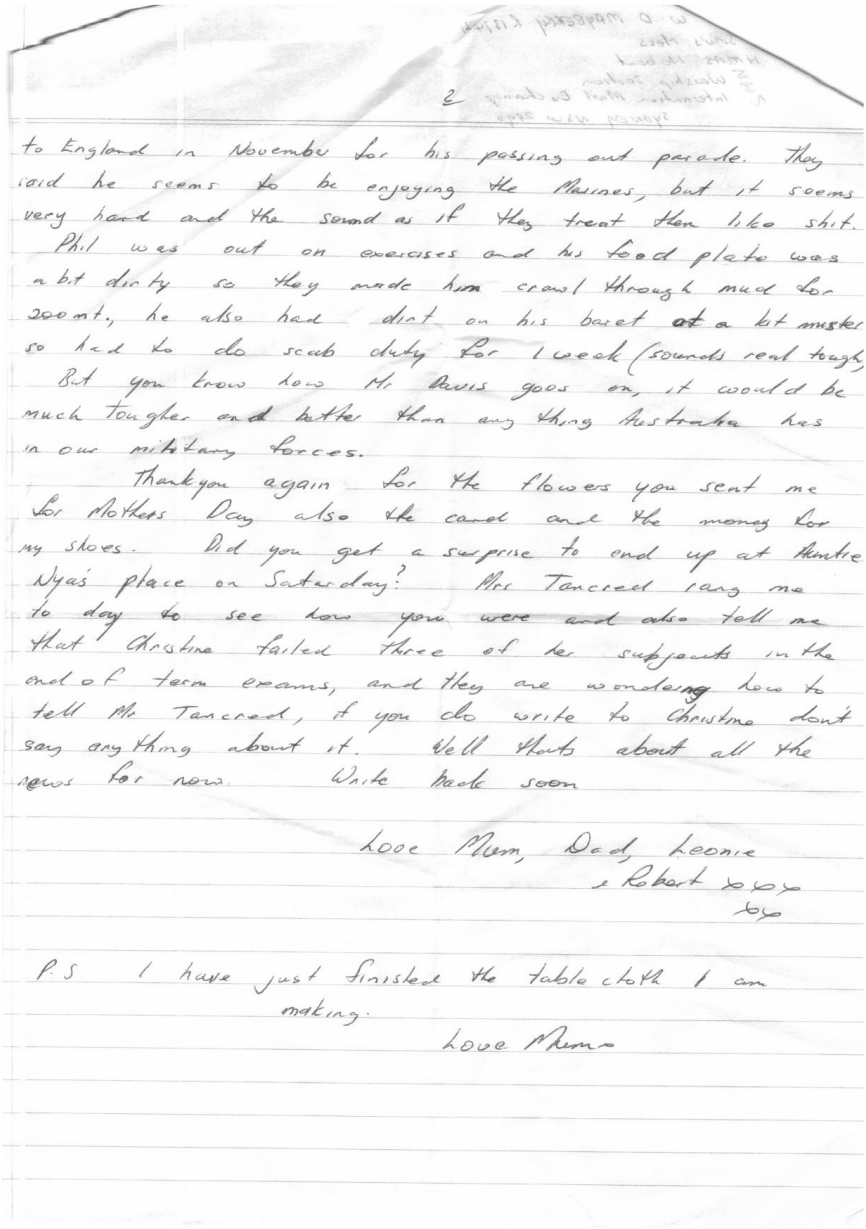
Dear William,

Just a few lines to say Hi. We all hope that your ears are much better, and you are well. It was really good to have you home last week and I also had a good week in Sydney. We all think your ears look good, its just a bit hard to get use to it but as time goes on it will just be the old William again, its like any thing different (glasses, false teeth etc) take time. I suppose when you get this letter you will be in Queensland.

Did you enjoy the football it was really a good game I listened to it on the radio, it was a real cliff hanger, I suppose you were all hoarse from singing out How is Sue, Bruce & Kelli hope they are all well.

What is the weather like in Sydney, its very cold and raining up here. Well Dad has sold all the drink machines, he took the last lot down on Sunday, Uncle John Stanford & Robert went with him. Leonie's Red jumper looks really nice on her. Robert seemed pleased with his after shave, I think he uses it.

I am enclosing your socks I suppose you will be looking for them. Do you think you will need your long winter underwear & top that you were issued with, as you might find them handy when you sail to Adelaide in June, it will be rather cold at sea then, if you require them let me know and I will send them down. Norma & Pa send their Love to you and hope your ears are feeling much better. You will never guess who came to visit us on Sunday Mrs Davis we have not seen them for about 5 months it was a nice surprise. They had some photos of Phil, he looks very smart in his uniform, they are going over



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to England in November for his passing out parade. They said he seems to be enjoying the Marines, but it seems very hard and the sound as if they treat them like shit. Phil was out on exercises and his food plate was a bit dirty so they made him crawl through mud for 200 mt., he also had dirt on his bayet ~~at~~ a bit mister so had to do scrub duty for 1 week (sounds real tough, But you know how Mr Davis goes on, it would be much tougher and better than anything Australia has in our military forces.

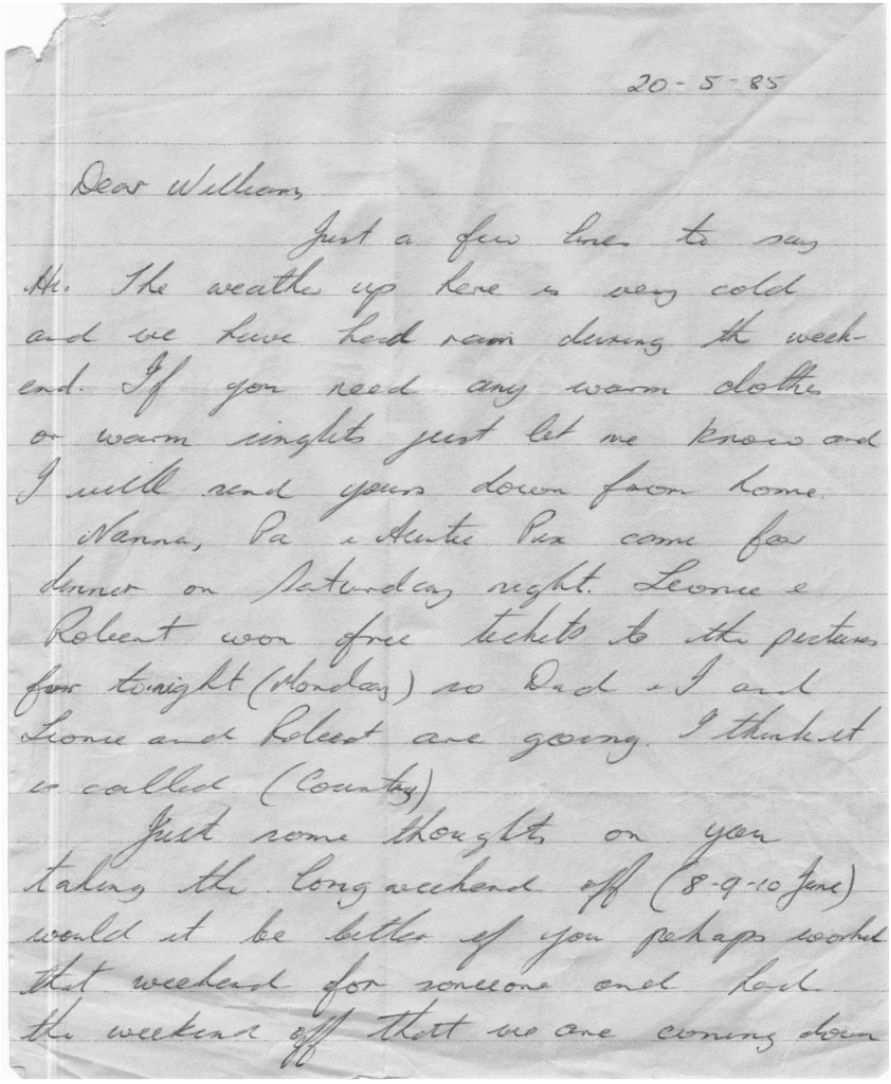
Thankyou again for the flowers you sent me for Mothers Day also the card and the money for my shoes. Did you get a surprise to end up at Auntie Nya's place on Saturday? Mrs Tancred rang me today to see how you were and also tell me that Christine failed three of her subjects in the end of term exams, and they are wondering how to tell Mr Tancred, if you do write to Christine don't say anything about it. Well that's about all the news for now. Write back soon

Love Mum, Dad, Leonie
& Robert xxxx
xxx

P.S I have just finished the table cloth I am making.

Love Mum

20-May-1986 - Letter from Mum



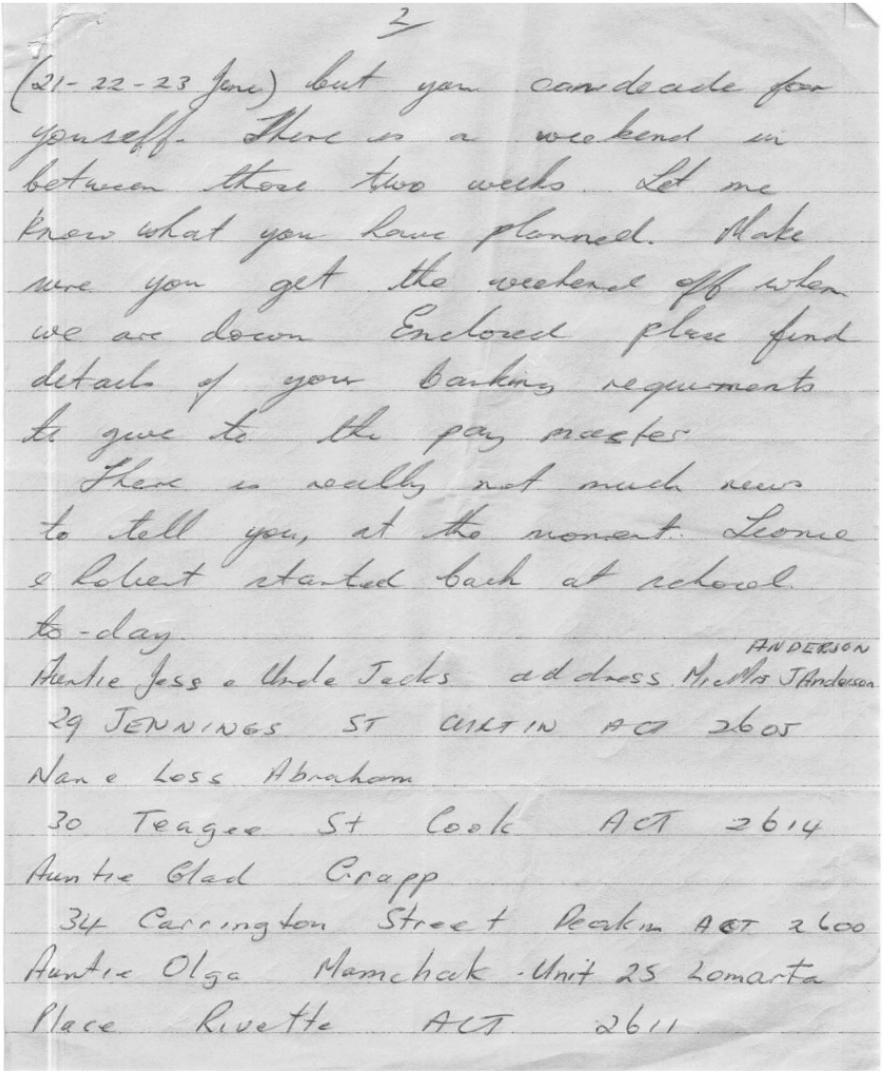
20-5-85

Dear Williams,

Just a few lines to say Hi. The weather up here is very cold and we have had rain during the weekend. If you need any warm clothes or warm singlets just let me know and I will send yours down from home.

Nanna, Pa & Auntie Pat come for dinner on Saturday night. Leonie & Robert won free tickets to the pictures for tonight (Monday) so Dad & I and Leonie and Robert are going. I think it is called (Country)

Just some thoughts on you taking the long weekend off (8-9-10 June) would it be better if you perhaps worked that weekend for someone and had the weekend off that we are coming down



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(21-22-23 June) but you can decide for yourself. There is a weekend in between these two weeks. Let me know what you have planned. Make sure you get the weekend off when we are down. Enclosed please find details of your banking requirements to give to the pay master.

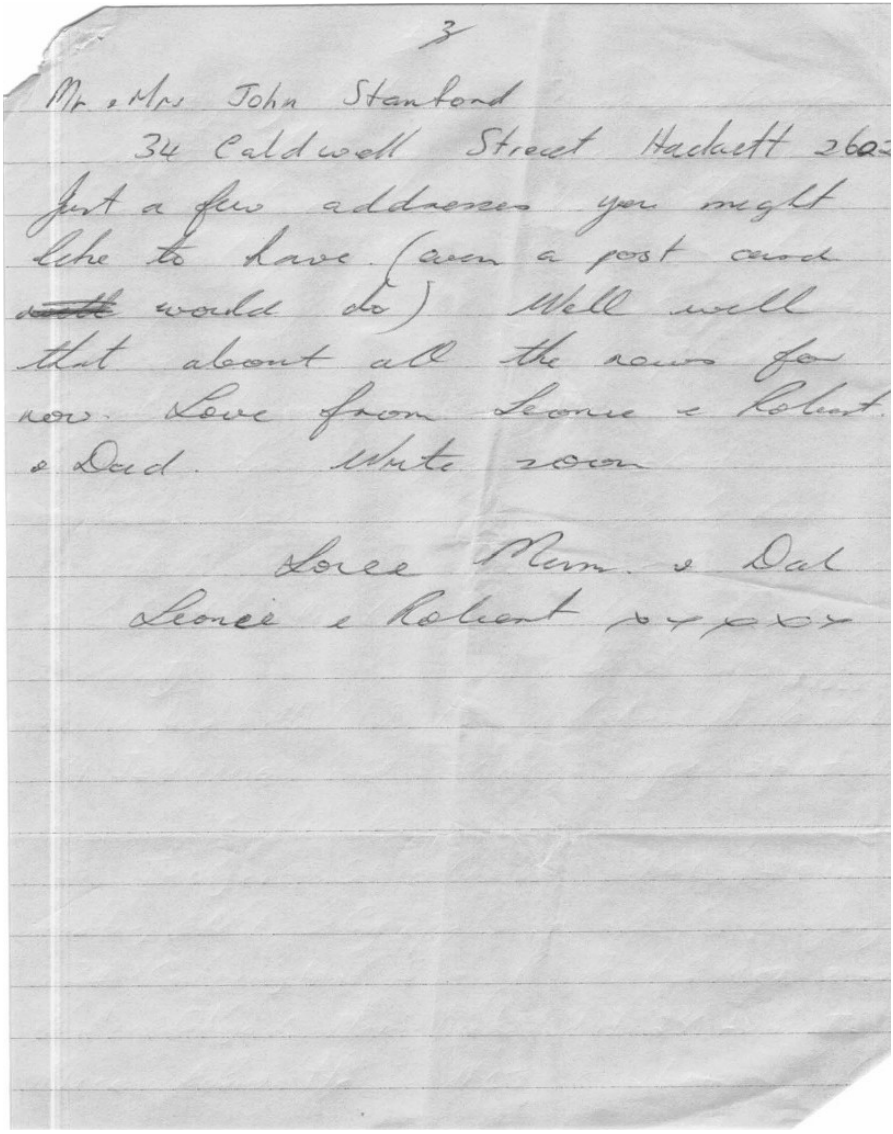
There is really not much news to tell you, at the moment. Leone & Robert started back at school to-day.

Auntie Jess & Uncle Jacks address. Mr. & Mrs J Anderson ANDERSON
29 JENNINGS ST CURTIN ACT 2605

Name Loss Abraham
30 Teague St Cook ACT 2614

Auntie Glad Crapp
34 Carrington Street Reakin ACT 2600

Auntie Olga Mamchak - Unit 25 Lomarta Place Rivette ACT 2611



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Mr + Mrs John Stanford
34 Caldwell Street Hackett 2602

Just a few addresses you might like to have. (even a post card ~~with~~ would do) Well well that about all the news for now. Love from Leonie + Robert + Dad. Write soon

Love Mum + Dad
Leonie + Robert xxxxxx

28-May-1986 - Letter from Nan

28-5-86

Dear William,

Hope this letter finds you well and we hope your ears are much better. What did the guys on the ship think of the new you? Hope you enjoyed your trip to Brisbane. It wont be long till your off to the Far East. Do you think that you might be home sometime before you go north or not? Leonie & Robert will not be going on weekend posting the long weekend in June.

Ann (Littlebury Owens) and her husband Geoff are now the proud parents of a baby boy born 22/5/86 his name is Glenn Francis Littlebury, Auntie Nya and Uncle Don are also very proud, I told Auntie Nya he will be a good person because he is a "Gemini".

As you know Nanna & Pa Mayberry were up for a few days last week. They seem well, they have a new car. Nanna & Pa hope you are well and send their Love & Best wishes to you

Well Dad is going to Woodgers "Kambah" on the 4/6/86, he wont be starting work as early in the morning but may be working a bit later at night. He also got the pay rise he asked for. Leonie starts her work experience on 2/6/86 for a week she is going to work at N.R.M.A Travel, I think she is looking forward to it.

Well things have finally caught up on Jamie (Returning M) Hasler, he was booked for not taking a breath test when asked in May and was fined $1,000 and his A.C.T. licence cancelled, and he is not allowed to hold an ACT licence, again. He seems to really be a rebel and is really stuffing up his life.

2/

Well thanks to you giving me that money to help pay for my shoes, last week I was able to get them out of lay-by.

Nanna & Pa Romoser send their love to you. I rang Auntie Thelma, Uncle Paul and they said to say Hi and they hope your ears are better. They said when you have time one day they would like to see you (if you decide to do this ring them first to make sure they are home) Carla & Benjamin are both O.K.

It has been really cold up here down to −2° and only getting to 14° or 16° in the day.

Leonie has been getting good marks in Maths – 89%, Science 54% (getting better at it now has Mr)(Can't think of his name his daughter went with Jake Yates) and she is also getting good marks for her assignments. I think Robert is trying a bit harder. (I hope he is)

Well Will thats about all the news for now. Write Back soon

Lots of Love
Mum, Dad, Leonie
& Robert- xxx
xx

P.S. Did you find Roberts Socks.
Love Mum

P.SS Just thought of that teachers name McDowell Jennifer (Anderson) and her children will be back in Australia some time this week
Love Mum

05-Jun-1986 - Letter from Mum

5-6-86

Dear William,

Just a few lines to say Hi. We all hope you are well and how is your ears now? I sure hope you have a nice time on Friday night and a good time at the weekend. Say Hi to Sue and also to Bruce & Dalli: It was good to hear you last Tuesday thanks for the call. Well I had a good birthday Dad sent me a naughty basket the contents were as follows (black nickers - black bra - chocolates in the shape on penis, sweets, dried fruit a banana and a jug in the shape of an old fellows, everyone that has seen it has just laughted and laughted, Leonie gave me a money purse and a clown doll, Robert some flowers, Nanna & Pa Rowsell a crystal swan and handbag, and this press clipping was in the Canberra Times Work gave me a cake.

MAYBERRY, Kaye. — Happy birthday from your Cherry Man.
MAYBERRY, Kaye. — Happy naughty 40 mother. Love Margaret, John and family.

It was really sad about Mrs Peeley (Nanna & Pa Rowsells) neighbour at the back house), she was going to work and was hit by a bus on the crossing out side where she worked, they are asking for witnesses who saw it happen, because I dont know if they know who was at fault, poor lady she had bad head injuries and had no chance.

Robert has been home from school all week as he has the flu and he is real sick. Leonie is doing her work experience and I think she is having a ball, everyone at WRMA are so nice to her.

Nanna Rowsell said to tell you she has not forgotten you but she has had the flu and been a bit to sick to write to you. Nanna & Pa Send there love to you. Do you know a chap b

2

name of Michael Baker (he's been in about 12 months) One of the ladies at Yates Sydney knows him her name is (Kay Judd).

Jennifer Anderson (Larsen) and Kelly and Trent came to see us the other day the kids are real little Yanks, but Jen sound the same and sent her love to you. Well the have left Jedda for good and will be in Australia for 8 weeks and then off to America for good, Glenn is over in America fixing up the house.

Mrs Trenorad rang the other day to see how you were and how your ears are. The kids are <u>not</u> going away on a weekend posting over the long weekend.

It has been really cold up here yesterday I don't think it got over 9° all day.

Well - Will that's about all the news for now. Write back soon.

Dont forget I would like a photo of you in winter rig in (black & white) so I will have one to match the one of your Dad. (not just a snap shot)

Write Soon

love

Mum, Dad, Leone

Robert

xxxxx ooooo

10-Jun-1986 - Letter from Mum

10-6-86

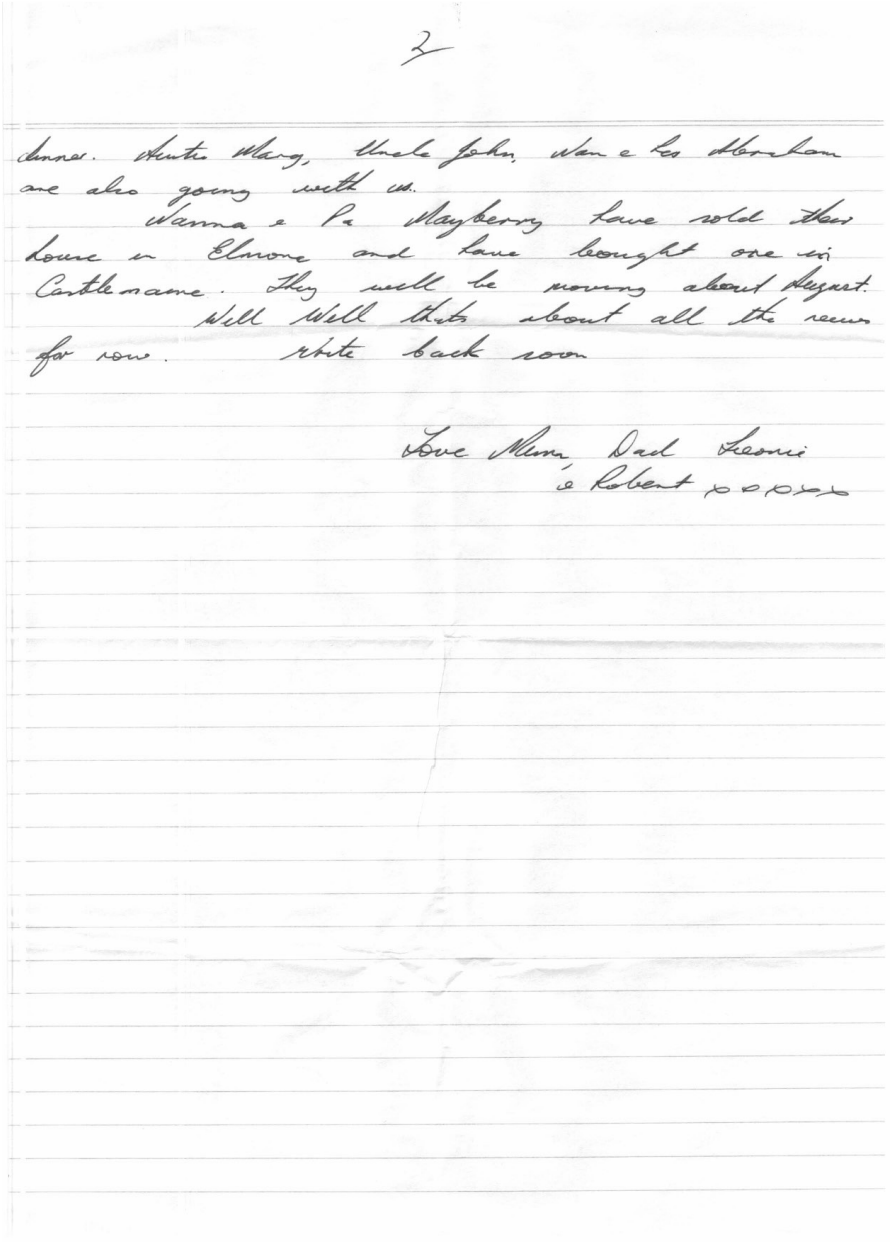
Dear William,

Just a few lines to say Hi. Well everthing up here is just the same, not to many changes. We have changed the home around a bit, well I eventually got Dad to take the old lounge out of the home, we now have the good lounge suit in the family room and have taken the buffet and long table into the other lounge room and it is now a dining room, and the small table is back in the kitchen dining room.

Robert went back to school after having all last week off with the flu. Leonie goes back to school after he week at N.R.M.A. (work experience) she really enjoyed he self and on Friday the staff (N.R.M.A.) gave her a lovely silver bracelet, on Saturday she went to the trooping on the colours at R.M.C. Duntroon and on Saturday night she went to a dance at R.A.A.F.A.

Rodney call around on Sunday night and he and Robert let off crackers. Leonie got a nice response on Monday afternoon, Jim Hensall (HMAS Kuttabul) call in home on his way back from Melbourne to Sydney, he seem a real nice chap he stayed till 10:30 p.m. Well Dad started out at Woodgers service station Kambah to day, so I suppose he will be really busy for a while.

Dad bought me a new vacume cleaner at the weekend. Tony and Elaine (Stamford) came out on Saturday and wish to be remembered to you. On Saturday night (14/4/87) Wanna a Pe Romwel are taking me out for dinner for a late birthday



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Jones. Auntie Mary, Uncle John, Nan & Les Abraham are also going with us.

Nanna & Pa Mayberry have sold their house in Elmore and have bought one in Castlemaine. They will be moving about August.

Well Well thats about all the news for now. Write back soon

Love Mum, Dad Leonie & Robert xoxoxo

23-Jul-1986 - Letter from Mum

23.7.86

Dear William,

It was really great to hear your voice over the phone on Saturday and Tuesday. The phone call from Indonesia was really funny every time that I spoke it would echo and I could hear myself speaking, did it sound like that from your end? How do you like the hot weather it is sure different from our climate in Australia.

When I told Nanna that we had wired money to you see said was it about $200 and I said yes because she would think it terrible to draw that much out of your account (You know how nanna is.) Pa was so pleased to hear that you rang us, he and Nanna send their love to you.

I rang Sue and gave her the message about the mail and the Phone call. Did you manage to contact her when you rang her on Tuesday. Our phone is really busy now days between your overseas calls and Jims calls to Leonie.

I was speaking to Linda Winkleman the other day and she sends her love to you. She said she is still looking for Mr Right to come along but she said they are far an d few between.

Dad is really working very hard and is working Saturday and Sundays as well as all week, But he is not going to work quite as early these days he is leaving home about 7.30a.m. and getting home about 6p.m. but he seems happy getting everything running how he wants it , they are putting a small supermarket in and things are really looking good, by the time you come home it all should all be ship shape.(please excuse the Navy term).

Robert is going O.K. and got his school report it was not to bad but as always the teachers said he could apply himself a bit more and that he is lazy. He is still enjoying Cadets and is going on a Posting in the August Holidays. I think Jim and Leonie are going to take hime somewhere for his birthday with one of his mates but we are going to keep it a surprise.

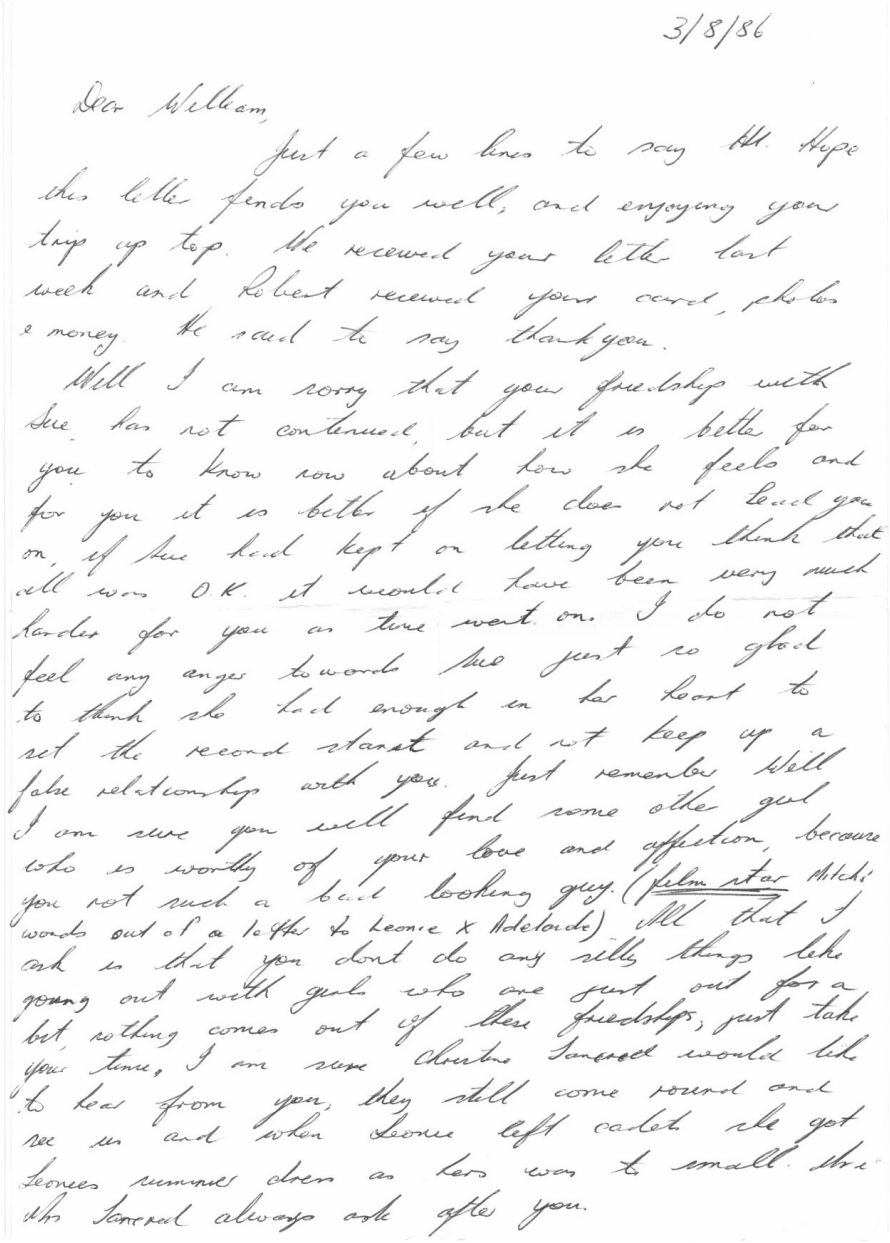
Leonie is O.K. and her school report was not to bad she passed in all subjects. Jim and his Mum came up for the weekend and we really had a good time, she seems like a real nice person very easy to talk to, and she was telling me just how happy Jim is that he and Leonie are going together, she said he was very lonley in Sydney but you would know how that feels, till you get someone special to have for a friend. I am sure Leonie will tell any other news, she sent you a letter today so you should have received it by the time you get my letter.

Nanna and Pa Mayberry will be moving to Castlemaine about 7/8/86. I am thinking of going down to the Main and Melbourne after Christmas day and taking Leonie,Robert and you If you would like to come, Dad will have to work. Any way more about that closer to Christmas. Well that is all the news for now. Sorry about the bad typing. But it gave me something to do at work as things are really quiet.

WRITE SOON. LOTS OF LOVE MUM, DAD, LEOINE, ROBERT. XXXXXXXXXXXX

PS We sat up and watched the Royal Wedding made us all Leonie & Me feel very romatic. Love Mum

03-Aug-1986 - Letter from Mum



3/8/86

Dear William,

Just a few lines to say Hi. Hope this little finds you well, and enjoying your trip up top. We received your letter last week and Robert received your card, also the money. He said to say thank you.

Well I am sorry that your friendship with Sue has not continued, but it is better for you to know now about how she feels and for you it is better if she does not lead you on, if she had kept on letting you think that all was O.K. it would have been very much harder for you as time went on. I do not feel any anger towards her just so glad to think she had enough in her heart to set the record straight and not keep up a false relationship with you. Just remember Well I am sure you will find some other girl who is worthy of your love and affection, because you are such a bad looking guy. (film star Mitch' words out of a letter to Leonie x Adelaide) All that I ask is that you don't do any silly things like going out with girls who are sent out for a bet, nothing comes out of these friendships, just take your time, I am sure Charles Sanford would like to hear from you, they still come round and see us and when Leonie left cadets she got Leonies summons down as hers was to small. She the Sanfords always ask after you.

2

Well Leonie officially left cadets yesterday 2/3/86 and all her card was thanks for being a lovely cadet.

Well it Roberts birthday can you believe that he is 14 years old (still a pee wee) Wanna & Pa Rowvel are coming out for lunch to-day. Robert said he didn't want a cake just a lemon meringue pie with candles.

Leonie & Jem took Robert & Jennie Duff bowling for his birthday last night and I think they had a good time, they also went to the pancake parlour after.

Do you remember Chris Rutledge well his father (Vin) died last week dont know what happened (because you did know that Chris Mum & Dad had been divorced for some time) Also Mr Kershaw (Jem) he was married to Wanna's cousin also died last week, Jim Kershaw was Barry's (Kershaw) uncle, it was very sudden and a great shock as he was a top bloke.

Uncle George Curtis is going to Greece for a holiday next week I am not sure for how long, the Curtis's said to say Hi to you.

I was talking to Mrs Dawes, Phil may be home for a holiday about the 17/3/86 for about a week and half. We called in to see Mr & Mrs Harding and they said to say Hi and have a good trip.

3/

All the animals are O.K Jane Maree really is looking lovely a real black green look, Colin is really fat and fluffy, the cat is O.K and like mad as Spot is good.

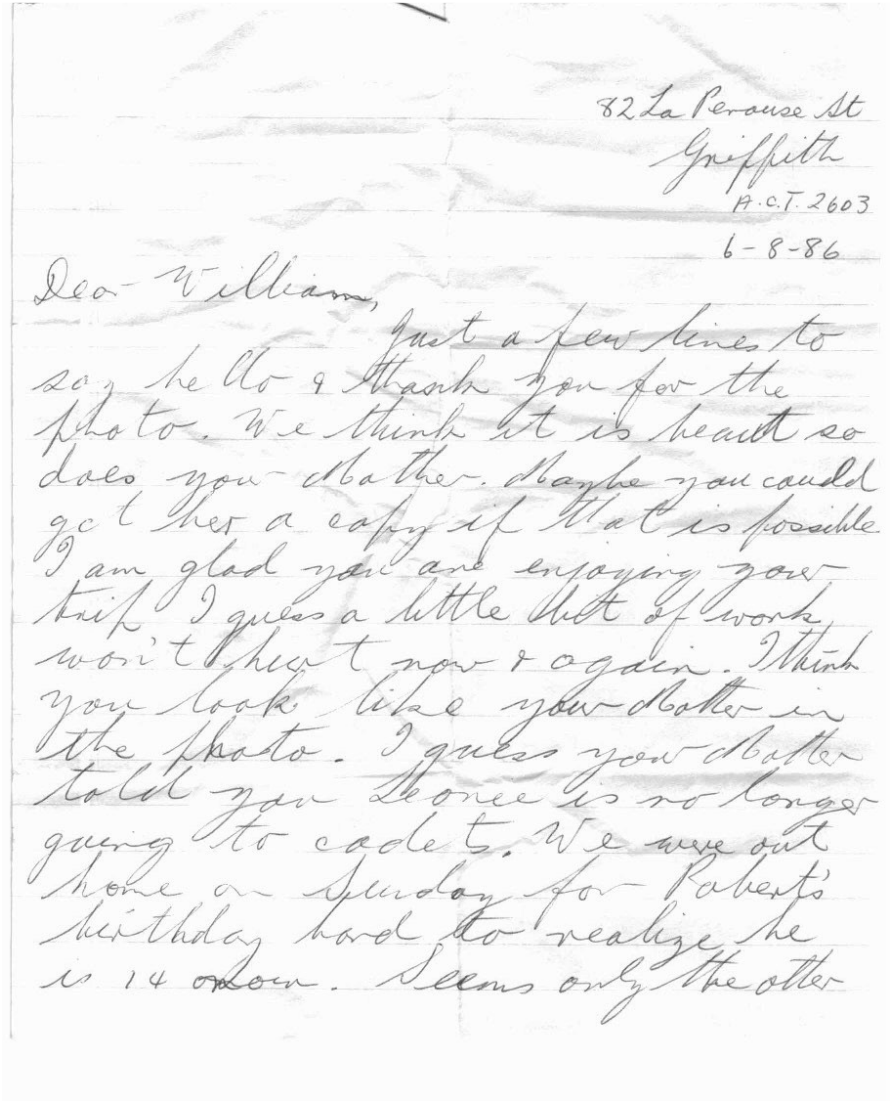
Dad is really working hard and long hours but he seems to be enjoying it. He has been on jetty duty all last week the only good thing about it is that he gets a good degree for doing duty (he said he is going to buy a suit with it) Nanna & Pa Mayberry are moving to Castlemaine on 7/8/86 so when we go down over Christmas we will be going to the new house. Their new telephone number is (054721120) the one that Pa wrote in the letter was wrong.

Well I am working on going down to Sydney to meet the ship, still working on the details, I am also thinking of coming to Sydney long weekend in October with the kids to see the naval review and also see you. I think it would really be great to see it and it will be something that will not happen again. Well, Well that's about all the news for now. Write soon.

Lots of love Mum xx
Dad Leona & Robert
o

Jim sends his regards. xxxxx

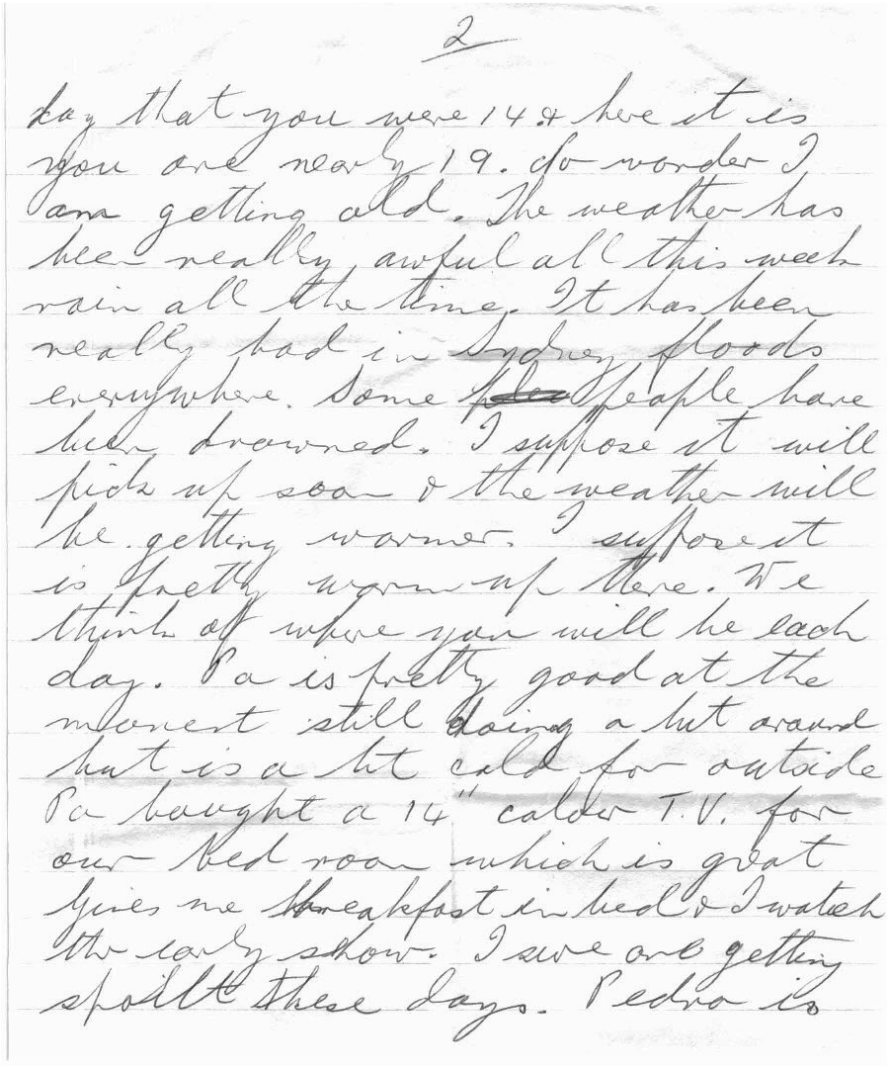
06-Aug-1986 - Letter from Nan Romviel



82 La Perouse St
Griffith
A.C.T. 2603
6-8-86

Dear William,

Just a few lines to say hello & thank you for the photo. We think it is beautiful so does your Mother. Maybe you could get her a copy if that is possible I am glad you are enjoying your trip. I guess a little bit of work won't hurt now & again. I think you look like your Mother in the photo. I guess your Mother told you Leonie is no longer going to cadets. We were out home on Sunday for Robert's birthday hard to realize he is 14 now. Seems only the other



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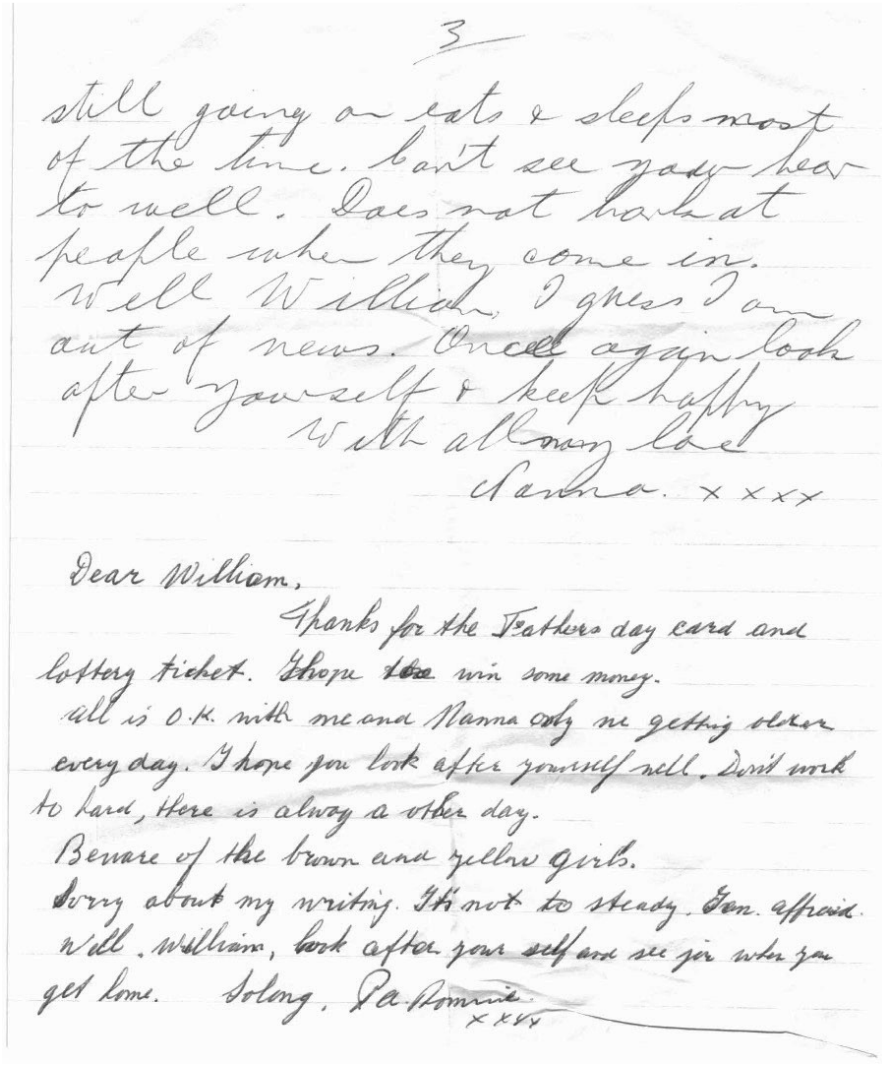
day that you were 14 & here it is
you are nearly 19. So wonder I
am getting old. The weather has
been really awful all this week
rain all the time. It has been
really bad in Sydney floods
everywhere. Some people have
been drowned. I suppose it will
pick up soon & the weather will
be getting warmer. I suppose it
is pretty warm up there. We
think of where you will be each
day. Pa is pretty good at the
moment still doing a bit around
but it is a bit cold for outside
Pa bought a 14" colour T.V. for
our bed room which is great
gives me breakfast in bed & I watch
the early show. I sure am getting
spoilt these days. Pedro is



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still going on eats & sleeps most of the time. Can't see you over here to well. Does not bark at people when they come in. Well William, I guess I am out of news. Uncle again look after yourself & keep healthy With all my love Nanna. xxxx

Dear William,

Thanks for the Fathers day card and lottery ticket. Hope ~~I~~ win some money.

all is O.K. with me and Nanna only me getting older every day. I hope you look after yourself well. Don't work to hard, there is always a other day.

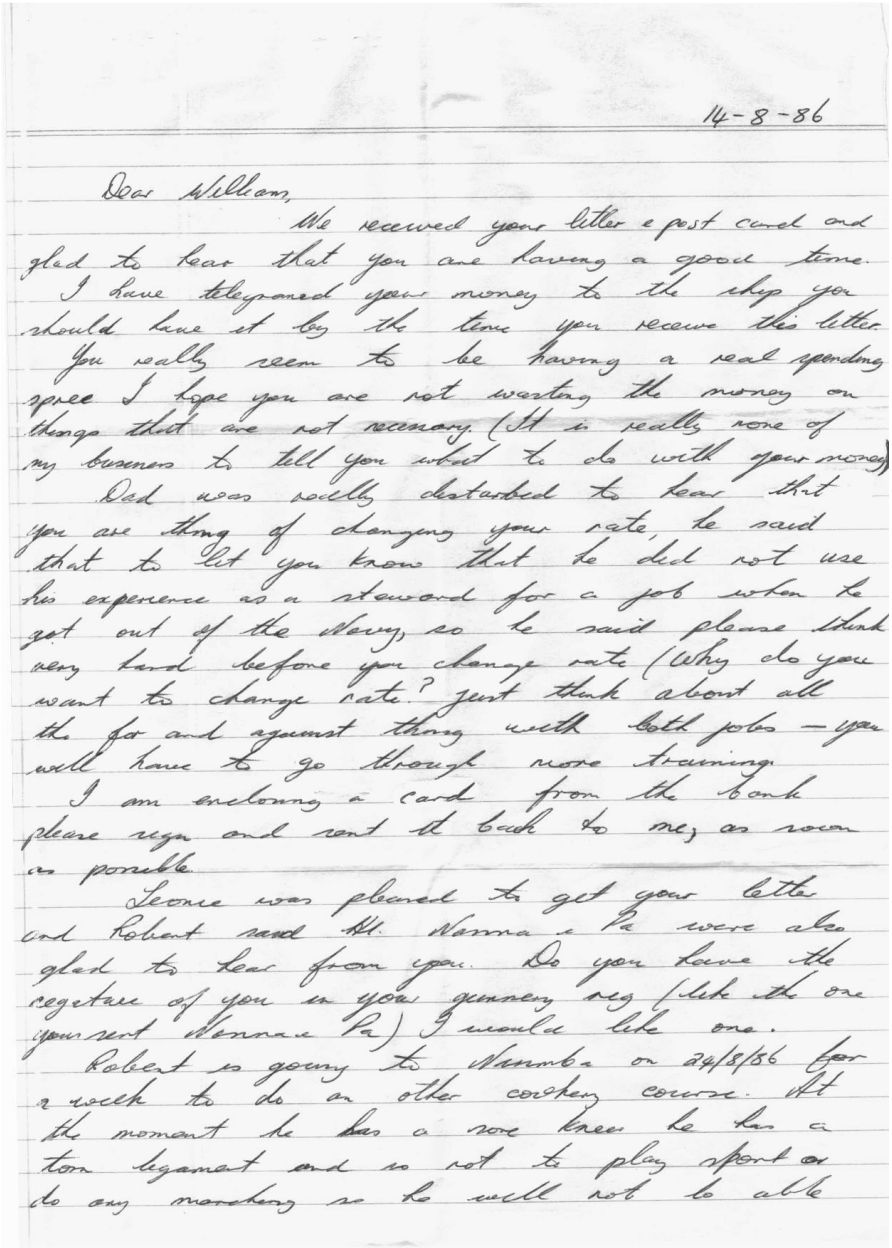
Beware of the brown and yellow girls.

Sorry about my writing. It's not to steady. I'm afraid.

Well. William, look after your self and see ya when you get home. Solong. Pa Bonnie

xxx

14-Aug-1986 - Letter from Mum



14-8-86

Dear William,

We received your letter & post card and glad to hear that you are having a good time.

I have telegraned your money to the ship you should have it by the time you receive this letter.

You really seem to be having a real spending spree I hope you are not wasting the money on things that are not necessary (It is really none of my business to tell you what to do with your money)

Dad was really disturbed to hear that you are thing of changing your rate, he said that to let you know that he did not use his experience as a steward for a job when he got out of the Navy, so he said please think very hard before you change rate (Why do you want to change rate? just think about all the for and against thing with both jobs — you will have to go through more training.

I am enclosing a card from the bank please sign and sent it back to me, as soon as possible.

Leonie was pleased to get your letter and Robert said Hi. Nanna & Pa were also glad to hear from you. Do you have the registare of you & you gunnery veg (like the one your sent Nanna Pa) I would like one.

Robert is going to Nambour on 24/8/86 for a week to do an other cooking course. At the moment he has a sore knee he has a torn legament and so not to play sport or do any marching so he will not be able

2

to march at the Inspection on Saturday 16/8/86.

Leonie is going to Melbourne with Jim on 23/8/86 for a week. they are going down to Melbourne on the bus and will be staying with Jim's parents. Jim is going to take her up to Castlemaine to see Nanna & Pa Mayberry.

Leonie, Robert & myself will be in Sydney when you come back to port, we are going to spend the weekend in Sydney we will stay with Auntie Thelma & Uncle Paul.

Again just think real hard before you change your rate, you just might be feeling a bit down being away from home and with your failed relationship with Sue, just think positive. Jim sends his regards

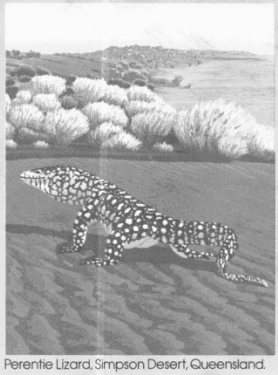
Well Well thats about all the news for now. Write soon

Lots of love
Mum, Dad, Leonie & Robert
xoxoxoxo

26-Aug-1986 - Letter from Mum

BY AIR MAIL PAR AVION

AEROGRAMME



Perentie Lizard, Simpson Desert, Queensland.

MAIL CENTRE
2 PM
27 AUG
1986
A.C.T. 2600

AUSTRALIA 45c

TO SMN QMG W.O MAYBERRY R137431

H.M.A.S. Hobart

Warships Section - Central Mail

Exchange REDFERN 2490

COUNTRY OF DESTINATION AUSTRALIA

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

MAYBERRY

65 Jennings St

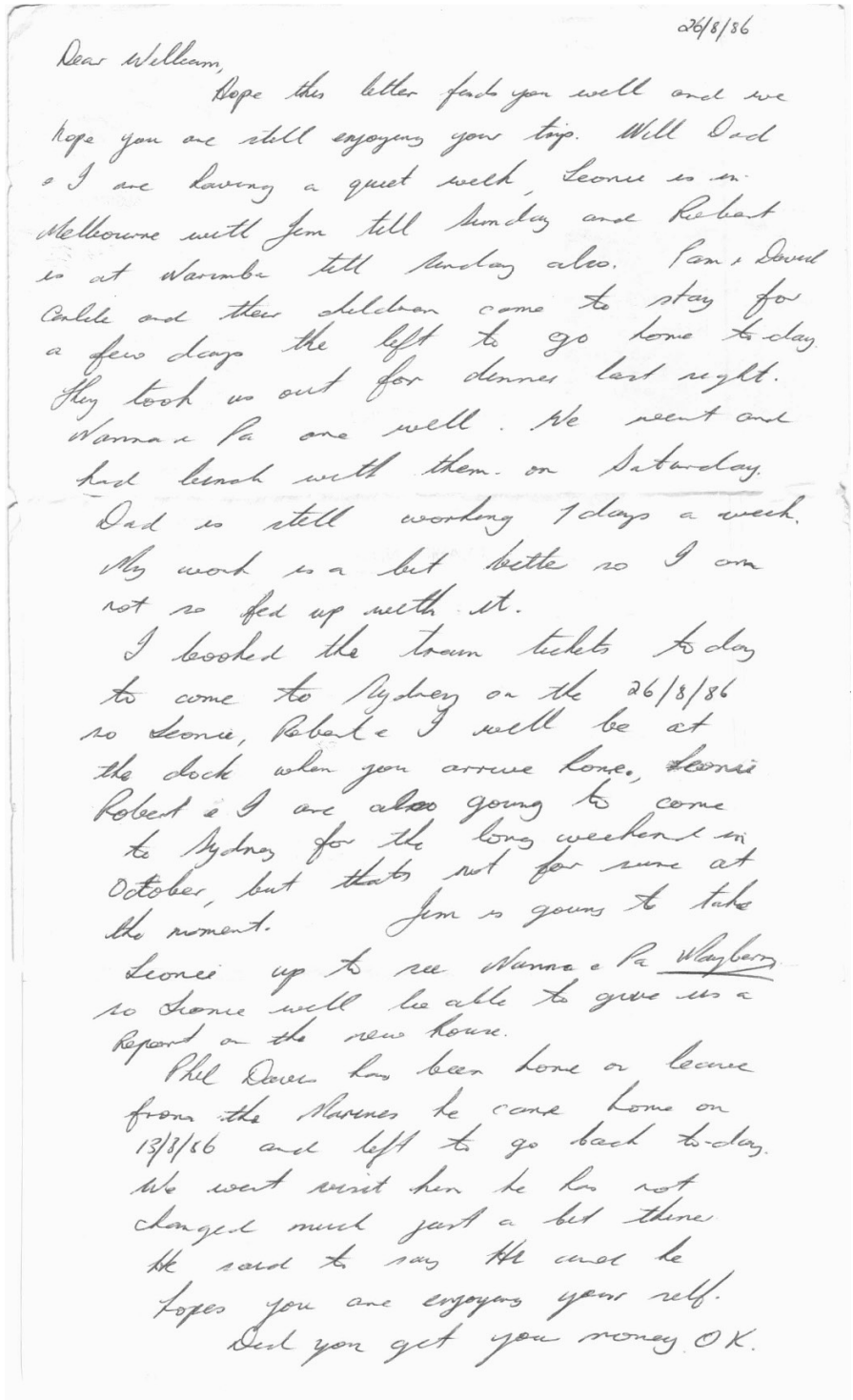
CURTIN ACT

CANBERRA Postcode 2605

Fold flaps before moistening gum. For ... adhesion, press down for a few seconds. If anything is en... sticker attached, this form must bear the appro... mail letter.

FOLD SIDE FLAPS FIRST

DO NOT WRITE BEYOND THIS LINE



26/8/86

Dear William,

Hope this letter finds you well and we hope you are still enjoying your trip. Well Dad & I are having a quiet week, Leonie is in Melbourne until Jim till Sunday and Robert is at Narrabri till Sunday also. Pam & David Carlile and their children came to stay for a few days the left to go home today they took us out for dinner last night. Nanna & Pa are well. We went and had lunch with them on Saturday.

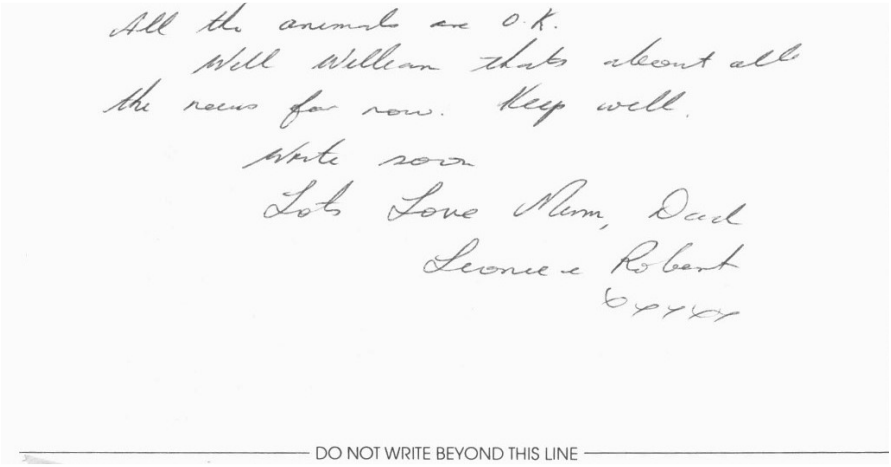
Dad is still working 1 days a week. My work is a bit better so I am not so fed up with it.

I booked the train tickets today to come to Sydney on the 26/8/86 so Leonie, Robert & I will be at the dock when you arrive home. Leonie Robert & I are also going to come to Sydney for the long weekend in October, but that's not for sure at the moment. Jim is going to take Leonie up to see Nanna & Pa Mayberry so Leonie will be able to give us a Report on the new home.

Phil Dean has been home on leave from the Navy he came home on 13/8/86 and left to go back today. We went visit him he has not changed much just a bit thine He said to say He must be

Hopes you are enjoying your self.

Did you get you money O.K.


All the animals are O.K.
Well William that's about all
the news for now. Keep well.
Write soon
Lots Love Mum, Dad
Leonie Robert
xxxxx
DO NOT WRITE BEYOND THIS LINE

11-Nov-1986 - Letter from Pa Mayberry

(1)

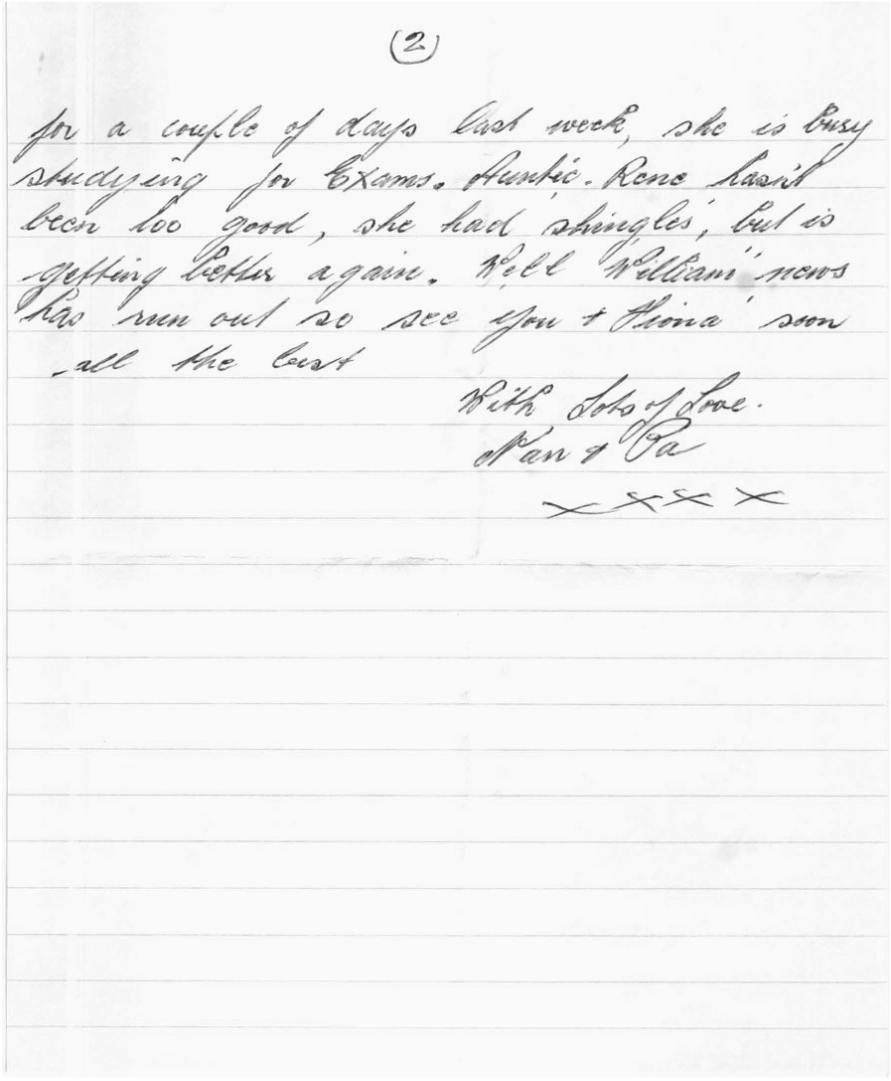
22 Greenhill avenue
Castlemaine 3450
11 - 11 - 86

Dear William,

Just a few lines in answer to your letter, pleased to hear you are well as it leaves Dan & I. We will be pleased to see you at 'Xmas' time, and also your friend "Fiona", you know you're always welcome and so are any of your friends anytime.

We are having lovely Spring - Weather, and the garden is looking good, all our Roses are out and the various trees in flower, an old fashioned garden and very quaint.

You're "Dad", "Uncle John" and Robbie, are coming up this next week-end, they arrive on Friday evening. There's the old Veteran - Cars and swap - burn out on at Bendigo on Saturday & Sunday, so Nana is busy cooking all those cakes etc. Ingrid was up



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for a couple of days last week, she is busy studying for Exams. Auntie Rene hasn't been too good, she had shingles, but is getting better again. Phil Williams news has run out so see you + Fiona soon all the best

With lots of love.
Dan + Pa

x x x x

12-Nov-1986 - Letter from Mum

12-11-86

Dear William,

Just a few lines to say Hi. I received your letter on Monday. Everything is OK for Fiona to come up on the 7/12/86 and we will take her to Castlemaine with us and then take you and her to the plane. I was speaking to Norma Mayberry and she said that you had written and it is OK with her if we all go to the farm at Chewton. It is also O.K. for your mate and his girlfriend to come up but I don't think we can fit them in to sleep so they would have to stay at a motel or hotel but they can come round home at any time while they are up here. It is also O.K if Dutchie calls in, we would be able to find a spot for him for the night. (Will it be only for over night.) Everything is O.K with Fiona so Jim he will be down this weekend.

Dad, Robert & John Stanford are going to Castlemaine this weekend.

Dad might be going to America for work next year for a week or 2 weeks. I sure hope that you will like your posting to HMAS COOK next year it will be a bit different (it is a bit smaller ship) but that is your job so you must go where you are told, at least you will be still Sydney based. William it is not that I don't like Rachel it is just that she seems a bit dumb. But you have to go out with

2

the person that you want to not the person or people that I think you should. My only advice is not jump in to deep to quick, because you know what girls can be like. (Sue) (just take you for a ride)

I went down to Motor Registrary and I can not book you in for a driving test until you fill in the forms and sign them (it has to be done at the office) So when you come home you will have to try then. Your motor bike licence is not due till January 1987.

Also Dad want to know if you want some work when you come home (Garry from the Supermarket at Braddon will give you a part time job if you want it)

Wanna & Pa send their love to you. Well that's about all the news for now Jim sends his regards. I received the bank card and I will send it to Wanna Mayberry. Also Aunty Rose is not to well at the moment.

Write soon

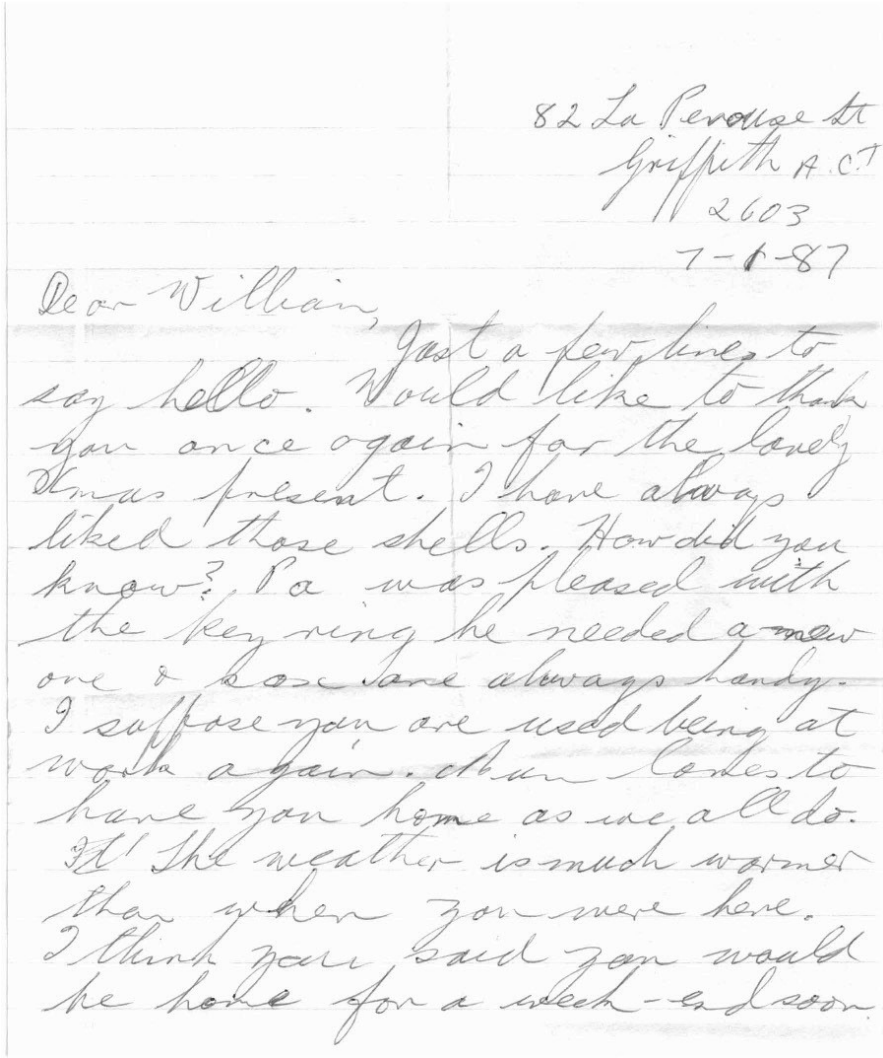
Love Mum Dad

Leone, Robert.

XXX

XXX

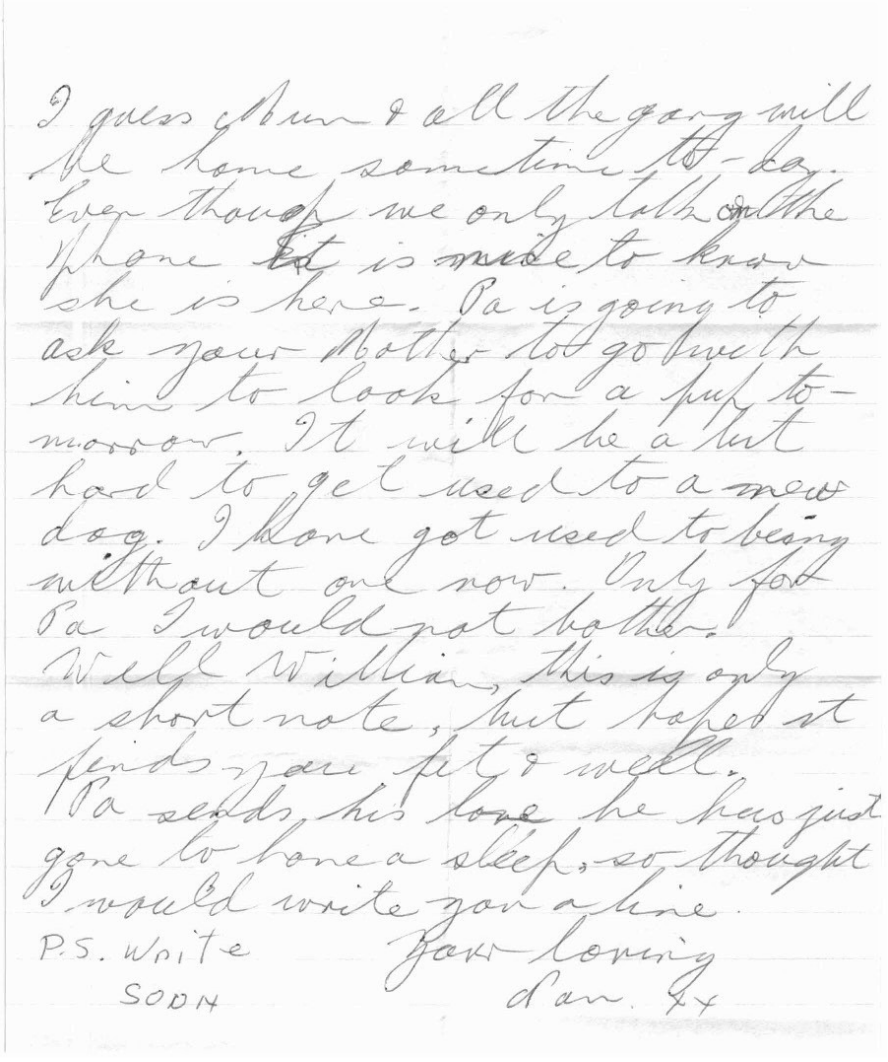
07-Jan-1987 - Letter from Nan Romviel



82 La Perouse St
Griffith A.C.T
2603
7-6-87

Dear William,

Just a few lines to say hello. Would like to thank you once again for the lovely Xmas present. I have always liked those shells. How did you know? Pa was pleased with the key ring he needed a new one & those are always handy. I suppose you are used being at work again. Mum loves to have you home as we all do. It's the weather is much warmer than when you were here. I think you said you would be home for a week - as soon



I guess Mum & all the gang will be home sometime to-day. Even though we only talk on the phone it is nice to know she is here. Pa is going to ask your Mother to go with him to look for a pup to-morrow. It will be a hard to get used to a new dog. I done got used to being without one now. Only for Pa I would get another.

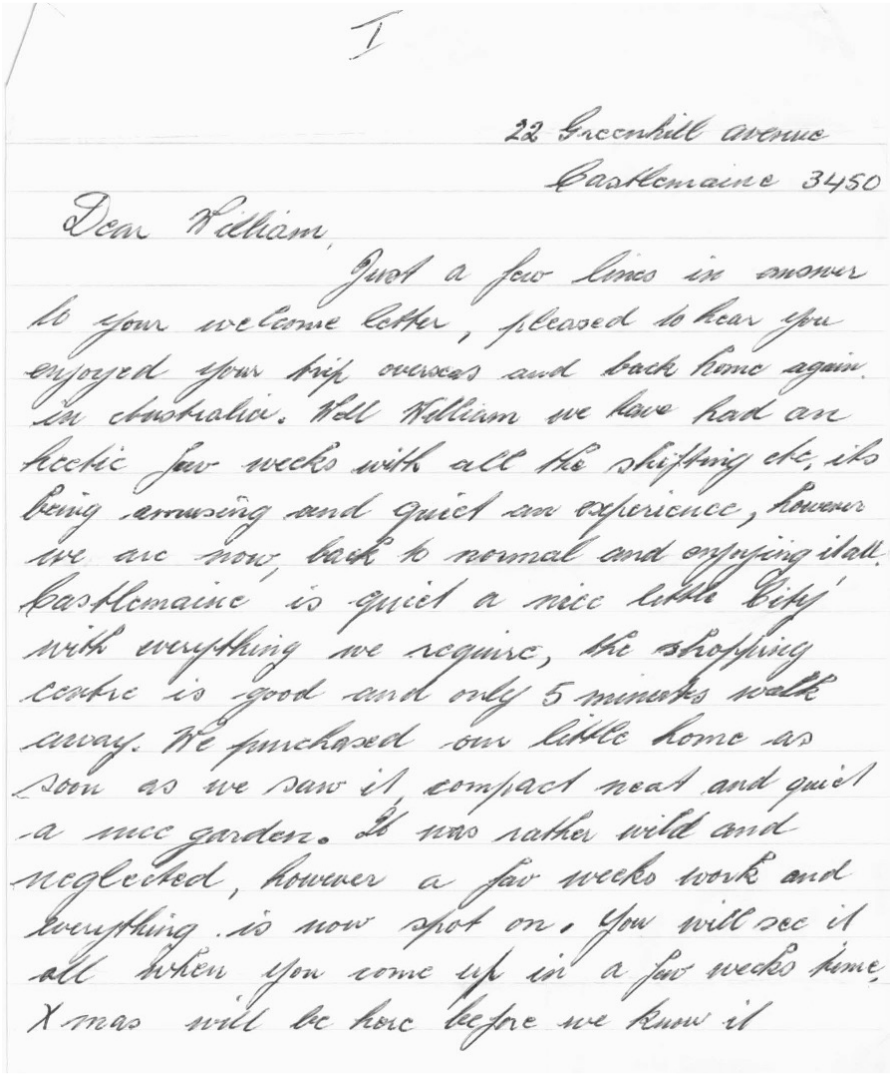
Well Willie, this is only a short note, but hoped it finds you all well.

Pa adds, his done he has just gone to bone a sleep, so thought I would write you a line.

P.S. Write SOON

Your loving Dan. Jr

Letter from Pa Mayberry

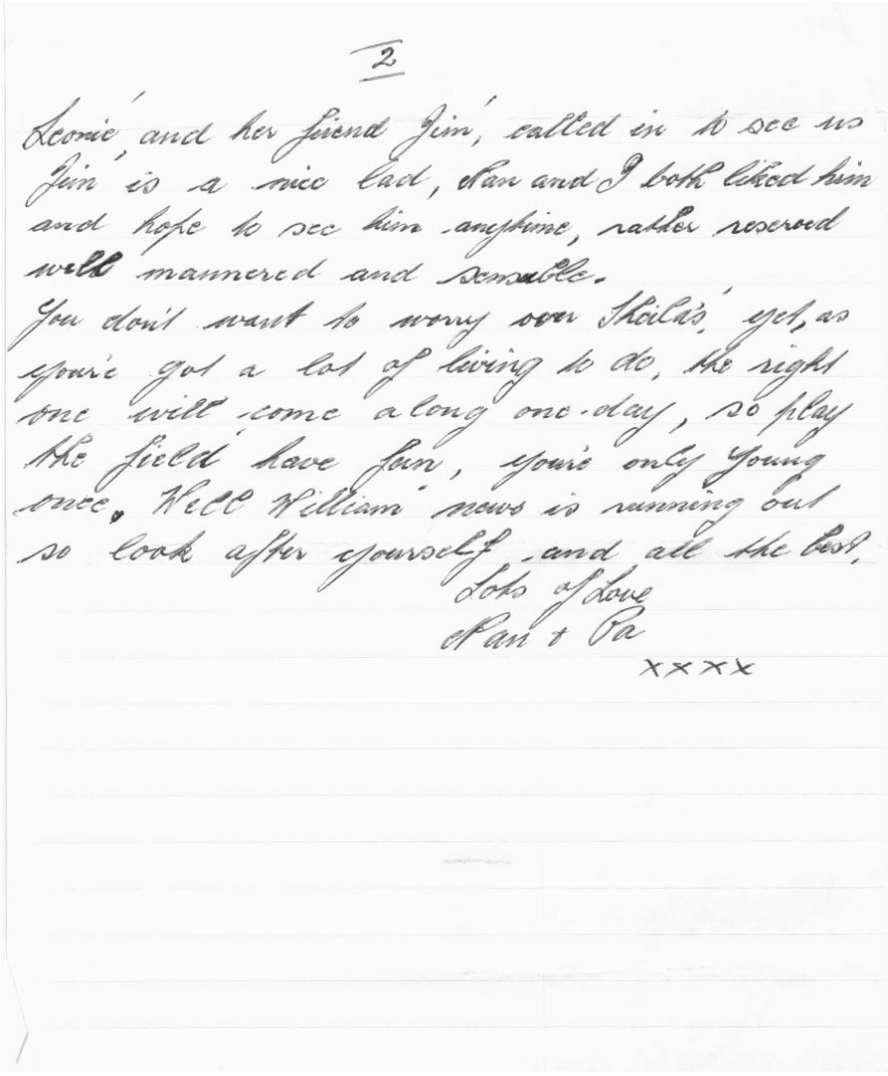


I

22 Greenhill avenue
Castlemaine 3450

Dear William,

Just a few lines in answer to your welcome letter, pleased to hear you enjoyed your trip overseas and back home again in Australia. Well William we have had an hectic few weeks with all the shifting etc, tho being amusing and quiet an experience, however we are now back to normal and enjoying it all. Castlemaine is quiet a nice little City with everything we require, the shopping centre is good and only 5 minutes walk away. We purchased our little home as soon as we saw it, compact neat and quiet a nice garden. It was rather wild and neglected, however a few weeks work and everything is now spot on. You will see it all when you come up in a few weeks time, X mas will be here before we know it



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Leonie and her friend Jim, called in to see us Jim is a nice lad, Dan and I both liked him and hope to see him anytime, rather reserved well mannered and sensible.
You don't want to worry over Sheila's yet, as you're got a lot of living to do, the right one will come along one day, so play the field have fun, you're only young once. Well William news is running out so look after yourself and all the best.

Lots of love
Dan & Pa

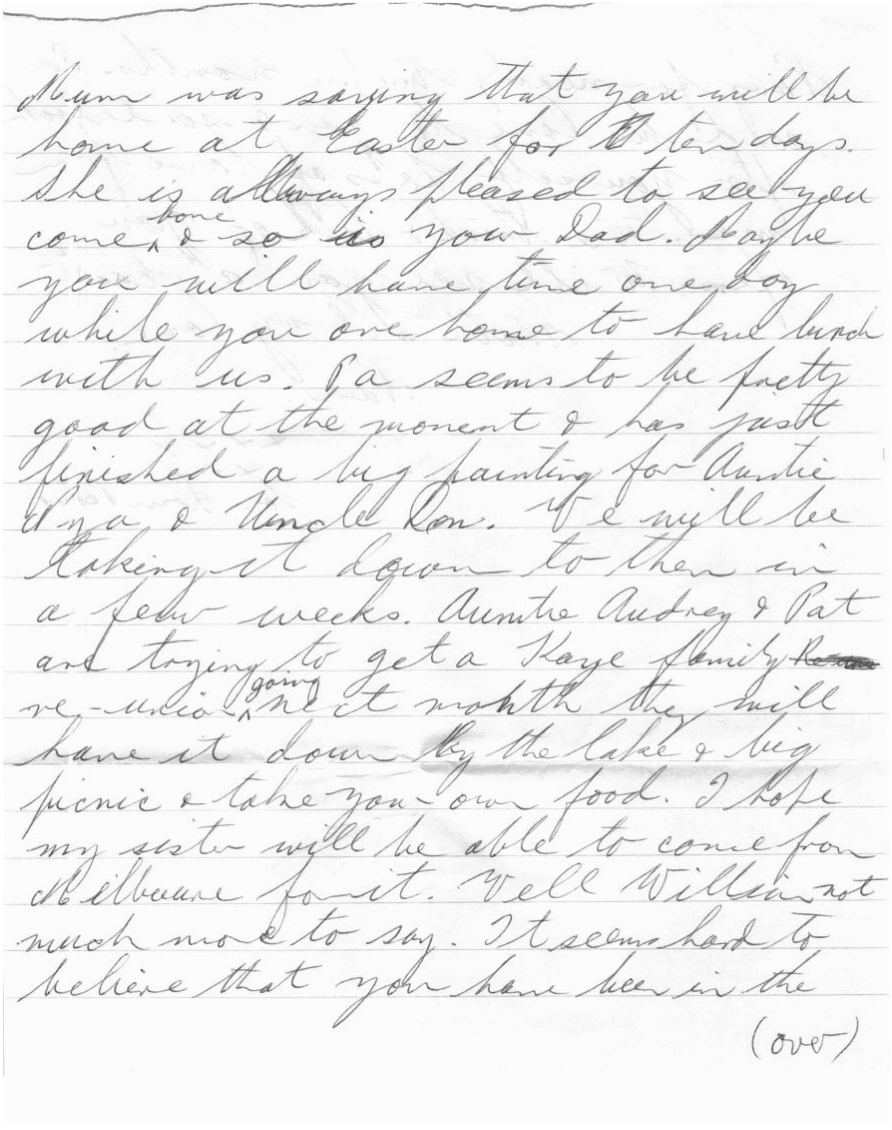
xxxx

Letter from Nan Romviel

82 La Perouse St
Griffith A.C.T.
2603

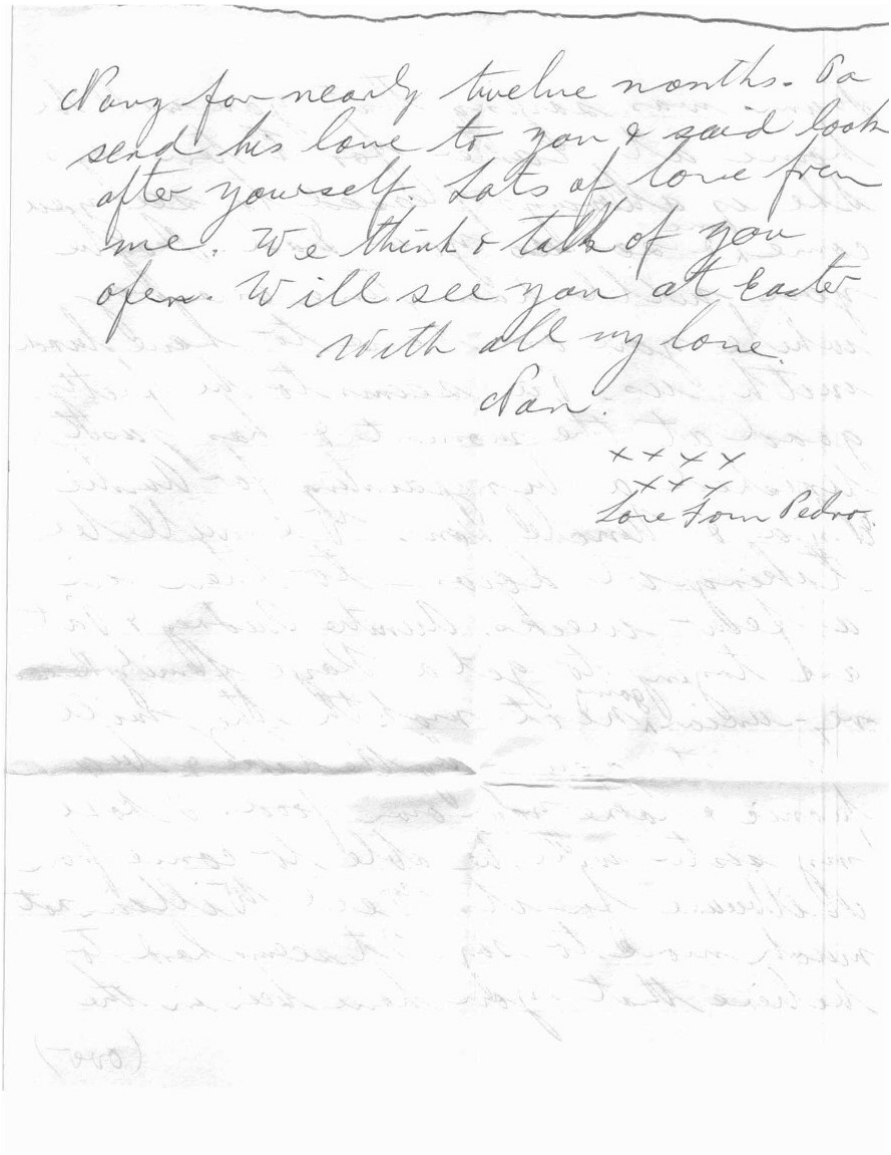
Dear William,

We were pleased to receive your welcome letter yesterday. Pleased to hear you had just a good time in Hobart. I think you can always have a good time in a small town (or should I say city) Also very pleased to hear that you are happy on board the Hobart. It is good to hear that you are doing what you were trained for. Pa & myself are going to see Leonie & maybe Robert & your Dad marching for the Duke at the Naval Memorial Service on Monday. I guess your Mother has told you all about it.



Mum was saying that you will be
home at Easter for 10 ten days.
She is allways pleased to see you
come home & so is your Dad. Maybe
you will have time one day
while you are home to have lunch
with us. Joa seems to be pretty
good at the moment & has just
finished a big painting for Auntie
Enya & Uncle Ken. They will be
taking it down to them in
a few weeks. Auntie Audrey & Pat
are trying to get a Kaye family re-union going next month they will
have it down by the lake & big
picnic & take your own food. I hope
my sister will be able to come from
Melbourne for it. Well Willie not
much more to say. It seems hard to
believe that you have been in the

(over)

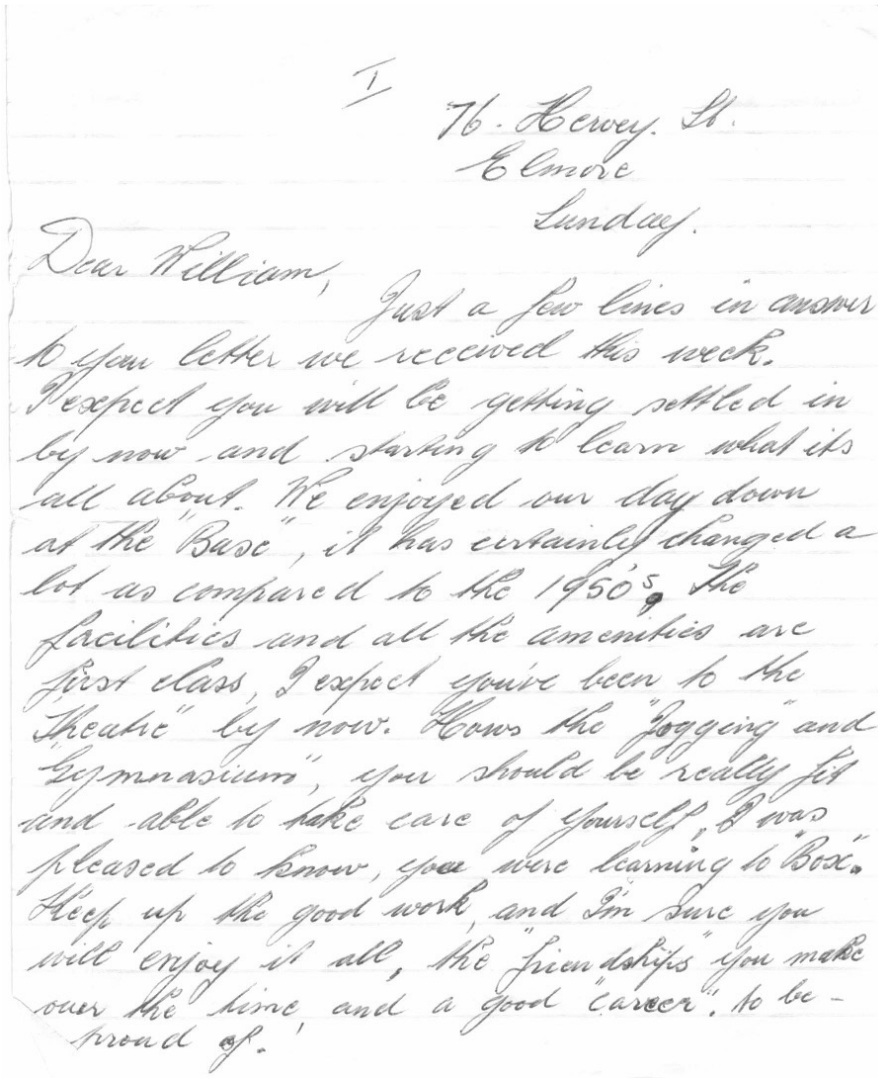


Nancy for nearly twelve months. Da send his love to you & said look after yourself. Lots of love from me. We think & talk of you often. Will see you at Easter with all my love.

Dan.

× × × ×
× × ×
Love from Pedro.

Letter from Pa Mayberry

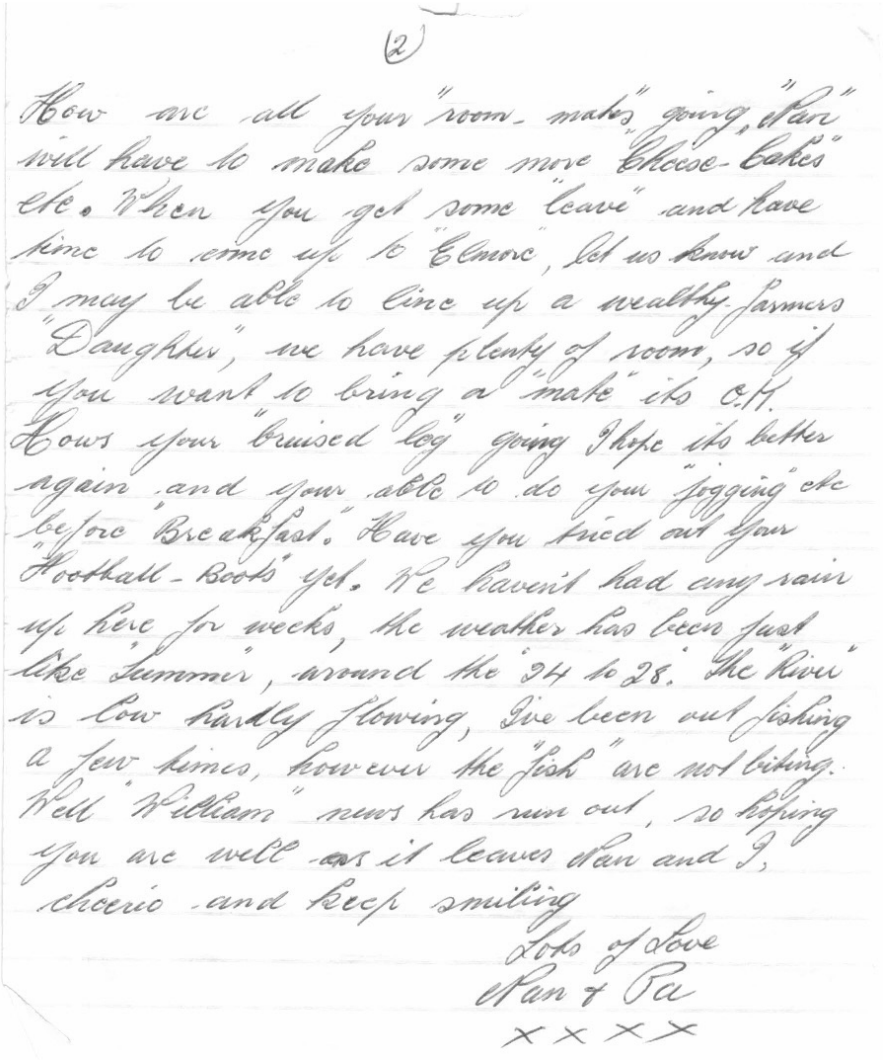


I

76. Hervey St.
Elmore
Sunday.

Dear William,

Just a few lines in answer to your letter we received this week. I expect you will be getting settled in by now and starting to learn what it's all about. We enjoyed our day down at the "Base", it has certainly changed a lot as compared to the 1950's. The facilities and all the amenities are first class, I expect you've been to the "theatre" by now. How's the "Jogging" and "Gymnasium", you should be really fit and able to take care of yourself, I was pleased to know, you were learning to Box". Keep up the good work, and I'm sure you will enjoy it all, the "friendships" you make over the time, and a good "career", to be - proud of.



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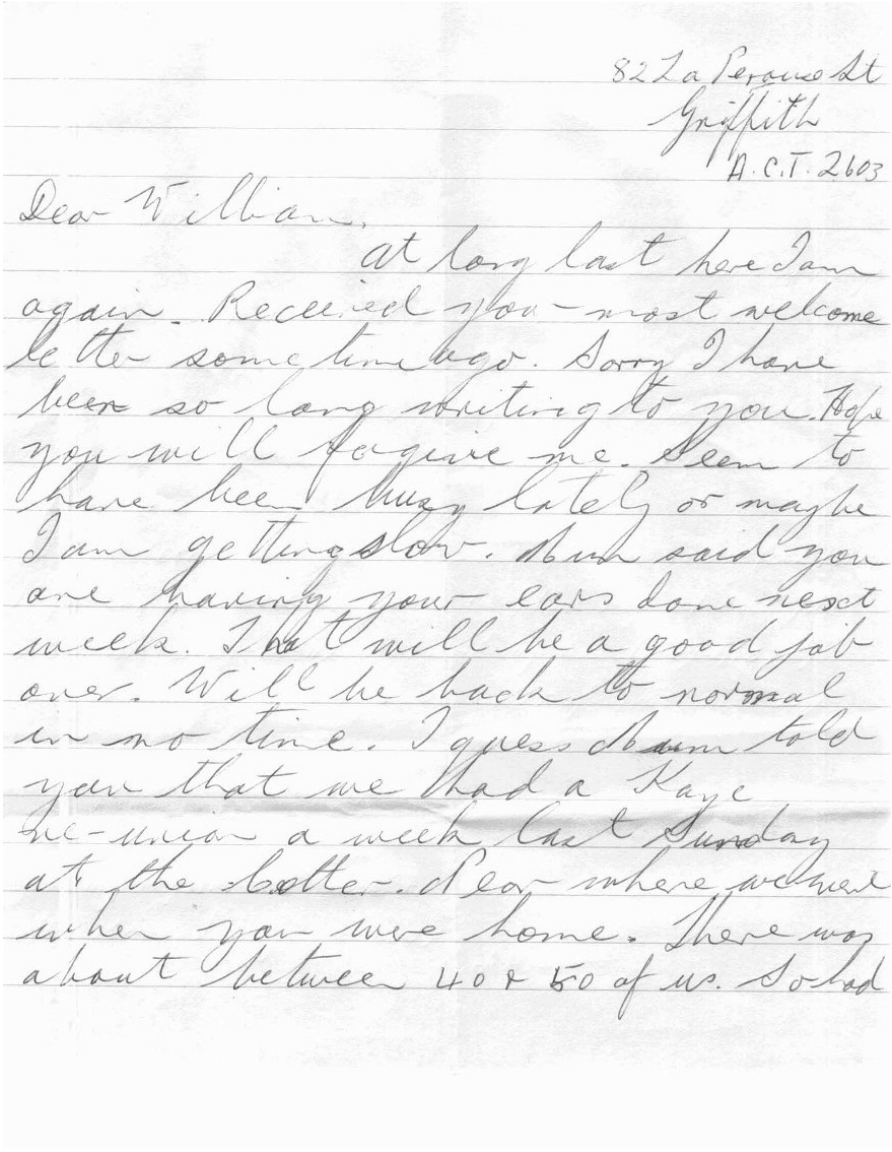
How are all your "room-mates" going, "Pam" will have to make some more "Cheese-Cakes" etc. When you get some "leave" and have time to come up to "Elmore", let us know and I may be able to line up a wealthy farmers "Daughter", we have plenty of room, so if you want to bring a "mate" it's O.K.
How's your "bruised leg" going I hope it's better again, and your able to do your "jogging" etc before "Breakfast." Have you tried out your "Football-Boots" yet. We haven't had any rain up here for weeks, the weather has been just like "Summer", around the 24 to 28. The "River" is low hardly flowing, I've been out fishing a few times, however the "fish" are not biting. Well "William" news has run out, so hoping you are well as it leaves Dan and I, cheerio and keep smiling

Lots of love
Dan & Pa
x x x x

Letter from Nan Romviel



822a Perouse St
Griffith
A.C.T. 2603

Dear William,

at long last here I am again. Received your most welcome letter some time ago. Sorry I have been so long writing to you. Hope you will forgive me. Seem to have been busy lately or maybe I am getting slow. Ruth said you are having your ears done next week. It will be a good job over. Will be back to normal in no time. I guess Adam told you that we had a Kaye Re-union a week last Sunday at the Cotter. Near where we were when you were home. There was about between 40 & 50 of us. So had

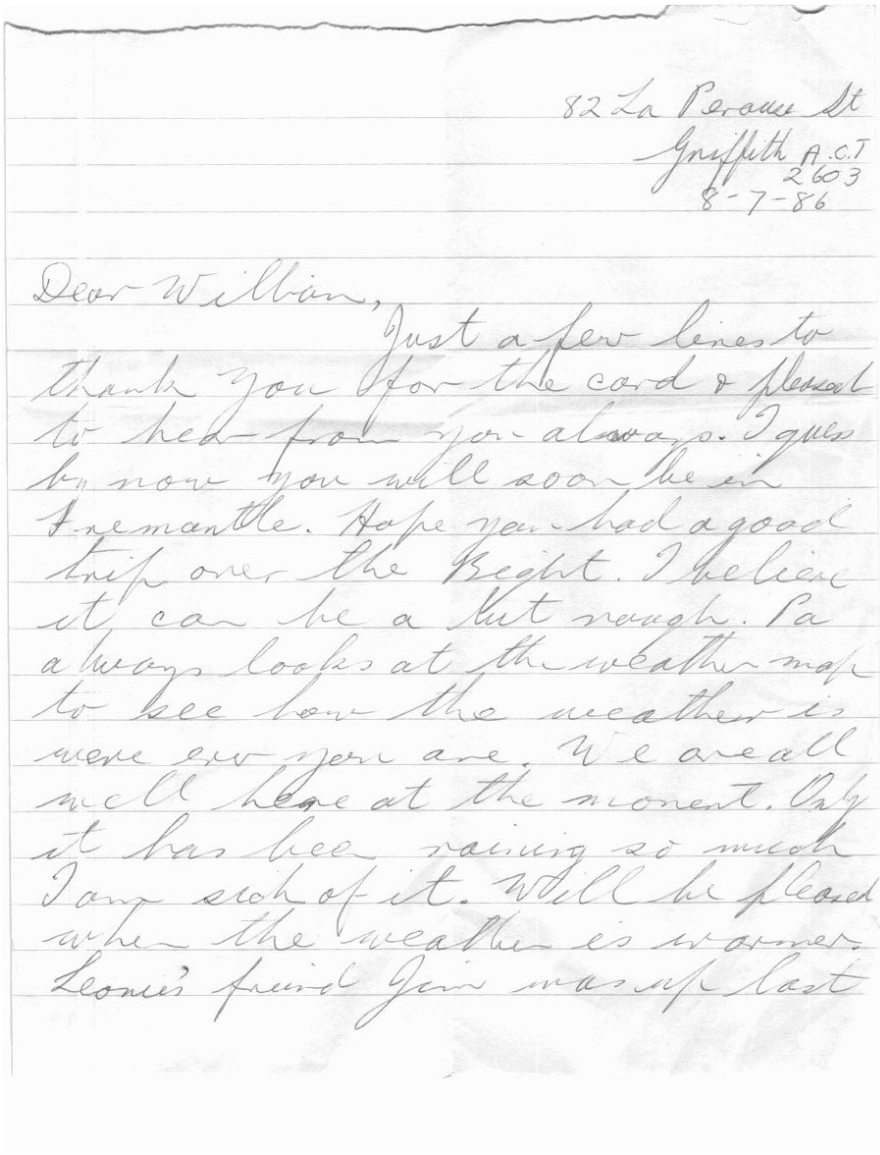
a good talk & plenty of food.
Pa was going to let us in bed
still this morning as it is
raining & is very wet. The first
rain we have had for a long time
It is getting a bit cold now but
has not been too bad so far.
I am afraid I don't like the winter.
We stayed out at Mum & Dad's
last Thursday night to look
after the animals. Leonie & Robert
went to stay with a lady & she
took them to Anzac march. I guess
Mum told you Leonie carried
a flag we saw it on T.V. we
were proud of her she looked good.
Mum & Dad seemed to enjoy
Uncle Don's birthday party I was
pleased to see them go.
Pa sent Uncle Don the tidy

painting for his birthday & am glad he liked it. Sent the smaller ones for Auntie Inga. I find it hard to believe that they will be soon Grandparents. We went to their wedding your Mother was only a bit of a kid. Pa sends his love & good wishes said he hopes to see you again before you go on your long trip. Well Willie this is just about all for now will write again before to long. Love to you as always.

Your Loving Nanna.

XX

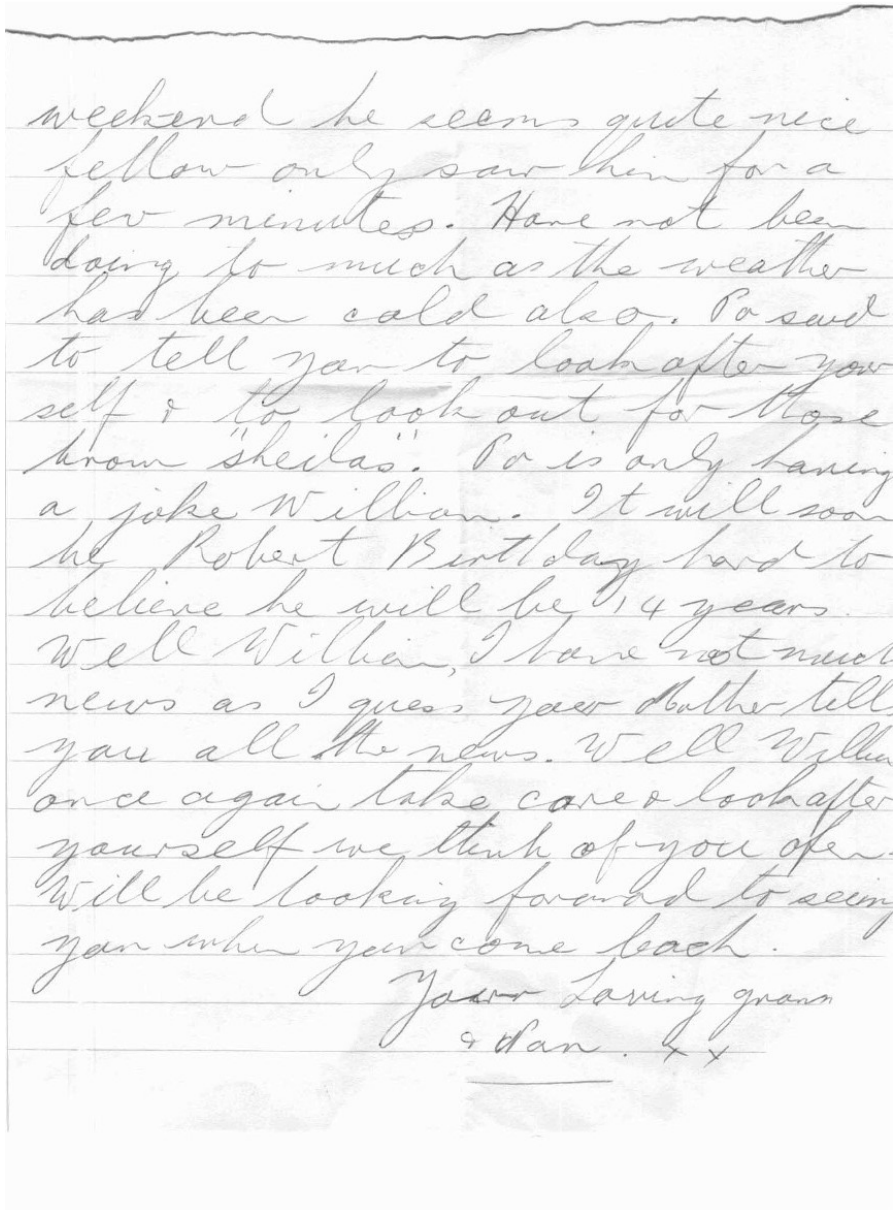
Letter from Nan Romviel



82 La Perouse St
Griffith A.C.T
2603
8-7-86

Dear William,

Just a few lines to thank you for the card & pleased to hear from you always. I guess by now you will soon be in Fremantle. Hope you had a good trip over the Bight. I believe it can be a bit rough. Pa always looks at the weather map to see how the weather is where ever you are. We are all well here at the moment. Only it has been raining so much I am sick of it. Will be pleased when the weather is warmer. Leonie's friend Jan was up last



weekend he seems quite nice
fellow only saw him for a
few minutes. Have not been
doing so much as the weather
had been cold also. Pa said
to tell you to look after your-
self & to look out for those
brown "sheilas". Pa is only having
a joke William. It will soon
be Robert Birthday hard to
believe he will be 14 years.
Well William, I have not much
news as I guess your father tell
you all the news. Well Willie
once again take care & look after
yourself we think of you often.
Will be looking forward to seeing
you when you come back.

Your loving gran
& Dan. x x

About the author

William Dirk Mayberry is an Australian writer and independent digital publisher based in West Java, Indonesia. Writing across fiction, memoir, essays, educational works, self-help, and reflective nonfiction, his work explores memory, resilience, observation, and everyday human experience through a direct and personal style. His interest in storytelling began during his service in the Royal Australian Navy and later developed into a growing catalogue of independently published digital works released under the Java Free Press imprint. His publications include memoirs such as The Longest Way Home, children's stories from the Bag Chip Bird series, practical educational titles from the 101 Self Help collection, and speculative fiction projects including the Crononaught Collection. Influenced by writers such as Robert Louis Stevenson, his work combines realism, introspection, and accessible storytelling across a range of genres and formats.

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